

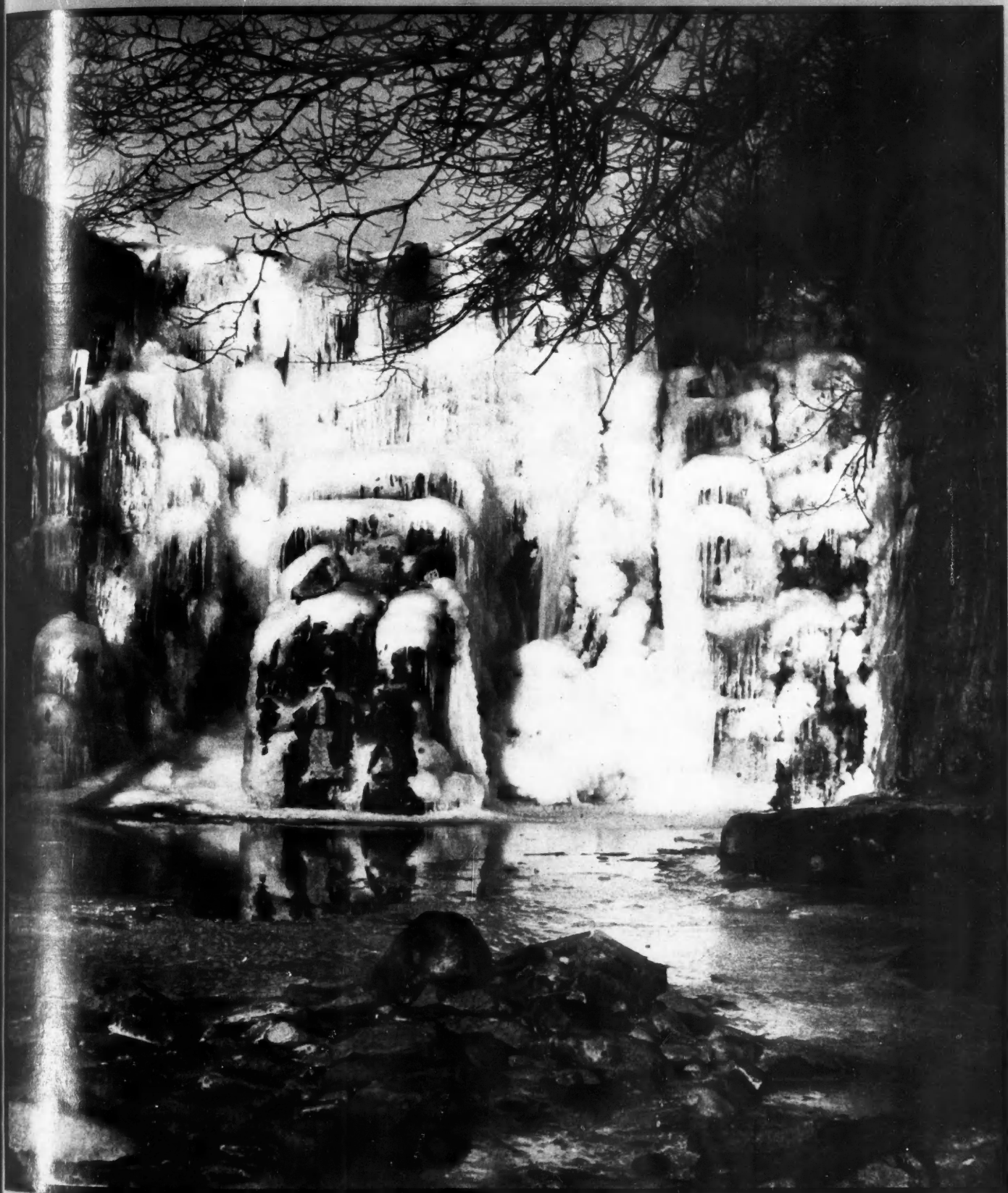
JAN 18 1944
THREE CHRISTMAS AIMS. By S. P. B. MAIS

COUNTRY LIFE

On Sale Friday
DECEMBER 24, 1943

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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCIV. No. 2449.

DECEMBER 24, 1943

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

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Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick 7 miles. Kineton Station 3 miles.

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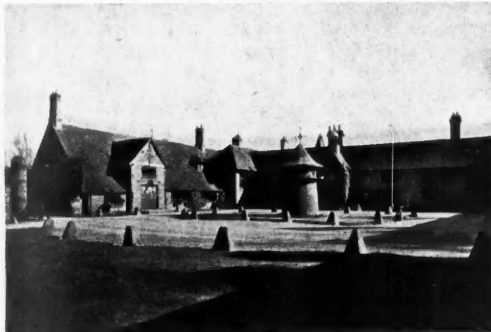
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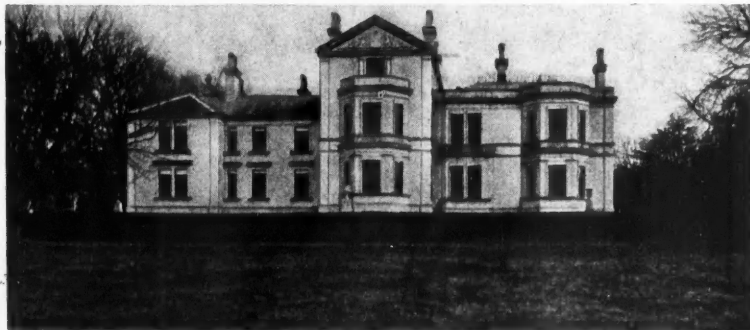
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In a lovely position, facing South, with extensive views.
A BEAUTIFUL STONE-BUILT HOUSE

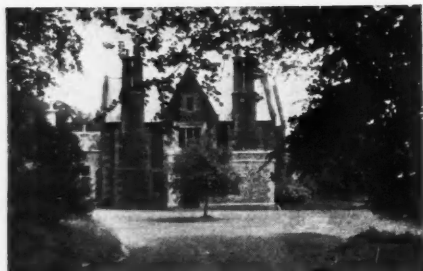
WITH MULLIONED WINDOWS AND STONE FIREPLACES

Hall and cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Main electricity. Independent hot water. New drainage system. Telephone. Garage and stabling.

FARMHOUSE, DAIRY and 16 ACRES OF GARDENS AND GROUNDS AND 58 ACRES OF PASTURE LAND

all in good heart and sloping Southwards to the River
TO BE SOLD FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION

PRICE £15,000 OR NEAR OFFER



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BETWEEN FARNHAM AND PETERSFIELD

500 ft. above sea level in an unspoilt Hants village, with lovely views of downs and beech-clad hills.

FOR SALE BY EXECUTORS—WITH VACANT POSSESSION

A MOST ATTRACTIVE AND COMFORTABLE COUNTRY HOUSE

Accommodation on two floors only.

Hall and cloakroom, 3 charming reception rooms, 10 bed and dressing rooms, bath-room, servants' hall. Garage for 3 cars. Stable. Cottage.



COMPANY'S WATER. OWN ELECTRIC PLANT. PARTIAL HEATING.

LOVELY SECLUDED GROUNDS, TENNIS AND CROQUET LAWNS. Paddock.

IN ALL 6½ ACRES

PRICE £6,000 FREEHOLD

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Grosvenor 3121
(3 lines).

WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1.

SUSSEX

In a beautiful district 2 miles from a Railway Station, having first-class service of non-stop trains to London, doing the journey in 50 minutes.

A BEAUTIFUL TUDOR HOUSE

with more recent additions. It possesses richly carved bargeboards, old mullioned windows with leaded lights, and is built of small hand-made bricks, the roof being mostly covered with Horsham stone flagging. All the reception rooms and principal bedrooms are oak panelled. Main electric light, gas. Central heating. Company's water. Main drainage.

Inner hall, library and smoking room, great parlour, little parlour, dining room, 16 bed and dressing rooms, billiards room, 7 bathrooms, and convenient domestic offices.

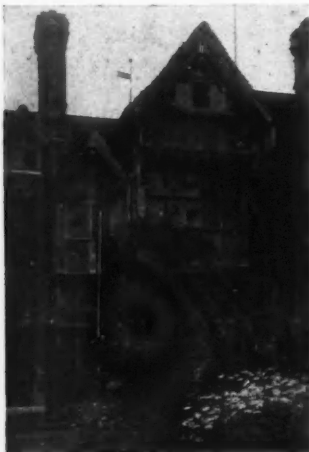
Garage. Stabling. Chauffeur's flat. Henry VII lodge. Gardener's house. Farmhouse and cottage.

The GARDENS form a perfect complement to the beautiful House, formal garden, bowling alley, privy garden, stately lime avenue, herbaceous borders, and fine old lawns, and have been MAINTAINED up to pre-war standard. Hard tennis court. Productive KITCHEN GARDEN with RANGE OF GLASSHOUSES. PARKLAND and WOODLAND.

Home Farm with Buildings and Dairy.

Grass and Arable Land.

IN ALL ABOUT 150 ACRES
FREEHOLD FOR SALE

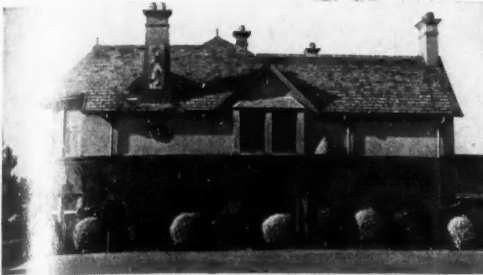


Personally inspected and highly recommended by the Agents: Messrs. WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, Mayfair, W.1.
Vendor's Solicitor: W. WALLACE HARDEN, Esq., 49, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

ANGLESEY

Enjoying magnificent views over the Menai Straits and the Snowdon Mountain range.



A Stone-built Residence approached by a drive of about 250 yds. with 6-roomed Lodge. Sun parlour, lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, cocktail bar, cloakroom, domestic offices with maids' sitting-room, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Oak staircase. Central heating throughout. Electric light. Telephone with extensions. Water by electric pump. 2 garages. Stabling. Cowhouse, pigsties, etc. Grounds with rose garden, rockery, orchard, tennis lawn, Chinese ornamental garden, kitchen garden, greenhouses, grass and arable field, in all about 10½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (39,989)



ADJOINING A BUCKS GOLF COURSE

South-west, with good views. 'Bus service to Station with trains to Paddington in under 30 minutes.

ELIZABETHAN RESIDENCE with later additions and a number of historic features, built of brick with massive chimneys, stone mullioned windows and tiled roof. In position and approached by 2 drives. Magnificent Banqueting Hall with 2 reception, garden room, 10 bed, and 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Main light and water. Telephone. Garages. Stabling. 3 cottages. Timbered grounds run down to Lake. Lawns, rose garden, kitchen garden, tennis court, and paddock.

ABOUT 13 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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WEST SUFFOLK

AN ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE IN A MARKET TOWN yet with lovely country views. Within five minutes of shops, churches, etc., and about half a mile from Station. The house is of brick with pantiled roof, partly creeper-clad, and stands on gravel soil. It contains: square hall with gallery, 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, dressing-room, bathroom. Maids' sitting-room.

All main services. Telephone. Brick garage. Loose box, etc. PLEASANT GARDEN OF ABOUT HALF AN ACRE on two levels and laid out with lawns, herbaceous borders, flower beds, vegetable garden, etc.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (40,686)

ON A SPUR OF THE COTSWOLDS

About 450 ft. up, with extensive and beautiful views. 2 miles from Main Line Station and important Town. Excellent 'bus service.



An attractive Residence of brick and Cotswold stone with slate roof, in a sunny position on a southerly slope. Hall, 4 reception, 8 bedrooms, principal with lavatory basins (h. & c.), 4 bathrooms. Domestic offices with maids' sitting-room. Central heating. All main services. Telephone. 2 double garages. Stabling of 6 loose boxes. Man's rooms. GROUNDS of about 4½ ACRES with 2 tennis lawns, orchard, excellent kitchen garden, greenhouses, etc.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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HAMPSHIRE. NEAR WINCHESTER.

FOR SALE. WITH OCCUPATION AFTER WAR
GEORGIAN RESIDENCE



Entirely modernised. Standing in small well-timbered Park, facing South.

11 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 large reception rooms, excellent offices. Main electric light and power. New central heating. Main water.

2 garages. Stabling.

2 cottages. Old-world gardens.

23 ACRES

Messrs. NICHOLAS, 4, Albany Court Yard, Piccadilly, W.1.

HAMPSHIRE

With grounds to river with yacht anchorage.

FOR SALE. MODERN HOUSE IN ELIZABETHAN STYLE
5 bedrooms, 1 dressing room, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms. Main services. Garage.

PRETTY GROUNDS AND WOODLAND, PIER, BOATHOUSE.

2½ ACRES

Messrs. NICHOLAS, 4, Albany Court Yard, Piccadilly, W.1.

FOR OCCUPATION OR INVESTMENT

ESSEX COAST

48 miles from London

FREEHOLD AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE OF 1,750 ACRES, including the principal residence, with main services and central heating, garage, and stabling, man's quarters, lodge entrance, 2 smaller houses, 3 farms, buildings, 14 cottages, small holdings, and some of the finest marsh grazings and wild-fowl shooting in the county, let and producing about £1,000 per annum, excluding the main residence and sporting in hand. Offers invited for the freehold, or the residence and 40 acres would be sold separately.

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LOFTS & WARNER

41, BERKELEY SQ., LONDON, W.1. Gro. 3056.

By direction of the Trustees of the late Mrs. E. M. Watson-Kennedy.

THE WIVETON HALL ESTATE NEAR BLAKENEY, NORFOLK

This attractive **SMALL ESTATE** will be offered for **SALE** by **AUCTION** on **JANUARY 29, 1944**, at the **ROYAL HOTEL, NORWICH**, at 2 p.m.

The ESTATE includes a **SMALL-SIZED MANSION**, known as **WIVETON HALL**

with charming gardens and grounds. Small Home Farm with Steward's House,

About 10 ACRES OF EXCELLENT FRUIT ORCHARDS

in full bearing, Arable and Pasture Land and Marshes. Excellent AGRICULTURAL PREMISES (including up-to-date cow house), several well-built BUNGALOWS, COTTAGES, etc., the whole extending to about

320 ACRES

THE HALL AND MAJORITY OF THE LAND ARE IN HAND AND WILL BE SOLD by **ANDREWS & DEWING**, in conjunction with **LOFTS & WARNER**

WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Particulars price 1/- in due course of: Messrs. ANDREWS & DEWING, Auctioneers, Wells, Norfolk; or Messrs. LOFTS & WARNER, 41, Berkeley Square, London, W.1; or of Messrs. JANSON, COBB, PEARSON & Co., Solicitors, 22, College Hill, E.C.4.





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OF SPECIAL APPEAL TO THE LONDON BUSINESS MAN IN THE TWICKENHAM DISTRICT

Close to the station, with fast service of trains to the City and West End. Shops, buses near.

A FINE OLD GEORGIAN RESIDENCE



superbly appointed and containing hall, beautiful drawing room, 41 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in.; 2 other reception rooms, billiard room, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

All main services. Central heating.

Garage for 4. Air raid shelter.

Lovely grounds intersected by a river, with two artistic bridges, lawns, fine trees, walled kitchen garden, range of glass, etc.

3 ACRES IN ALL

PRICE FREEHOLD £9,000

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Favourite district, 20 miles from London. Good situation. South aspect.

THIS IMPOSING RESIDENCE

DESIGNED BY A WELL-KNOWN ARCHITECT



Entrance and inner halls. Dining room, 27ft. 6in. by 22ft. 6in. Morning room, 2 smaller rooms.

Handsome salon, 5 principal bedrooms, sun parlour, 5 secondary bedrooms, 4 bathrooms.

Main electricity, water and drainage. Central heating. Secondary residence with 2 bathrooms. Cottage.

Lovely grounds with tennis and other lawns, rose garden, pergola, rock garden and lily pool, also kitchen garden and orchard.

ABOUT 4½ ACRES. PRICE FREEHOLD £16,000
POSSESSION BY ARRANGEMENT. A VERY FINE PROPERTY.

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BRANCH OFFICES: WIMBLEDON COMMON S.W.19

EXTENSIVE VIEWS OVER THE DERWENT VALLEY

6 miles from Derby. 9 miles from Nottingham.

ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY RESIDENCE

SOUTH ASPECT.

ALL MAIN SERVICES.

CENTRAL HEATING.

3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 attics.

Laundry.

Garage for two.

Greenhouses.

DELIGHTFUL OLD-WORLD GARDENS, 2

TENNIS COURTS and

PADDOCK (let). In all about

7 ACRES

PRICE £5,000

FREEHOLD

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EAST GRINSTEAD

About 3 miles from the town.

FOR SALE. CHARMING STONE-BUILT HOUSE

with its accommodation on two floors. Drawing room 23 ft. by 14 ft., dining room 19 ft. by 14 ft., sitting room 23 ft. by 15 ft., study, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Electric light.

Central heating. Garage.

Cottage. Delightful grounds, woodland, meadowland.

In all about 23 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD

£6,500

AN INTERESTING PROPERTY IN THE HEART OF LOVELY COUNTRY

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CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES

(1/6 per line. Min. 3 lines.)

AUCTION

LEICESTERSHIRE

"THE OLD COURT HOUSE," FOXTON, (within one mile of East Langton Station, L.M.S. Railway Main Line, 3 miles from Market Harborough and 13 from Leicester). THIS CHARMING SMALL FREEHOLD COUNTRY RESIDENCE, perfectly equipped and in exemplary condition, 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, complete offices, etc. All modern conveniences. Tastefully displayed gardens, Model Buildings. 2 ACRES. Also additional 45 acres off-lying land with farm-house and modern cottage. ALL WITH VACANT POSSESSION. For SALE by AUCTION on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1944, unless sold previously.

Detailed particulars from the Auctioneers: Messrs. HOLLOWAY, PRICE & CO., 9, St. Mary's Road, Market Harborough.

FOR SALE

DEVON, SOUTH. Gentleman's farming estate of nearly 300 acres, situated on a beautiful estuary with river frontage, and close to good anchorage. The House, upon which very considerable sums of money were spent just prior to the present war, has every modern convenience and comfort. Standing in lovely wooded grounds, and approached by a drive; the accommodation includes: entrance hall, lounge hall, garden lounge, drawing-room, dining-room. There is a wealth of oak panelling, and an oak galleried staircase to 7 principal bed and dressing rooms. A secondary staircase to 5 staff bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Kitchen with Aga. Staff room. Usual offices. Private office. 5 cottages, 3 sets of farm buildings, 6 garages. Bailiff's house. A very exceptional property, at an attractive figure.—OWNER, Box 693.

DORSET, EAST. Modern Residence, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, cloak, garage. Companies' supplies. About 1½ acre, pines, fruit trees. Possession. £3,700 Freehold. Sole Agents: RUMSEY and RUMSEY, Broadstone, Dorset.

FARMS

LEICESTERSHIRE. Excellent Dairy and Sheep-rearing Farm.

FOR SALE AS INVESTMENT. Rental £232. Price £4,000. No tithe. Land tax £6. Brick-built farm-house. Ample buildings. 207 Acres. Immediate sale desired. G. TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, London, W.1. (C.6847)

SUFFOLK, easy reach Ipswich. Excellent Mixed Farm, 211 acres, sound arable and old pasture. Tudor house with bath (h. & c.), very good buildings, cottages, ample water. Freehold £7,250. Possession Michaelmas.—WOODCOCK & SON, Ipswich.

FOR SALE

KENT, 12 miles. Distinctive attractive House, two floors, 6-7 bedrooms, 3-4 reception, 2 baths. Secondary stairs. Charming secluded grounds. £6,000. Some furniture. Post-war payment and possession. Freehold.—C/O ABBOTTS, 32, Eastcheap, E.C.3.

NORFOLK (EAST) COAST, Mr. Cromer, in pretty village. For sale, most charming Small Residence of great character, containing entrance hall, dining-room, large lounge, really up-to-date domestic offices, 4 bedrooms, boxroom, modern bathroom, flush lavatories on both floors. Mains electricity, gas, water and sewage. Independent hot water and central heating. House of considerable age, but thoroughly modernised; superbly decorated and fitted throughout. Spacious garage and other outbuildings. Garden of outstanding character and charm. Owner going Middle East. Immediate possession. £3,500.—J. R. E. DRAPE, Wroxham, Norfolk.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. With immediate possession, charming very modern Residence. 3 reception, 4 bed, bathroom, indoor and outdoor w.c., garage, main water and electricity, central heating, telephone. With or without 3-acre paddock containing cowshed, 2 ranges piggeries, and loose-boxes. Price £3,850 freehold complete. Splendidly situated near two important market towns.—Box 690.

SHROPSHIRE. Within short walking distance of Newport. AN ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY RESIDENCE standing in its own Grounds and having briefly: Large entrance hall, 2 reception rooms, morning room, domestic offices, 5 principal bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 maids' rooms. Main water and gas (electricity available). Garaging and stabling. Tennis court. Well stocked kitchen garden, and 2 paddocks of sound pasture—in all about 5 ACRES. Price £4,500, or near offer. For all further particulars and orders to view apply: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 7, Newhall Street, Birmingham, 3. (Colmore 4050.)

SUFFOLK. 6 acres. £5,000. Lovely Tudor-style Residence in well-timbered natural grounds with miniature lake. Quiet, secluded, unspoilt situation, 17 miles from Ipswich and well away from coast. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 7-10 bed (6 with fixed basins), 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Main electricity. Aga cooker and boiler. A perfect home, most easily run. About £4,000 spent on property since early 1939.—WOODCOCK & SON, Ipswich.

WANTED

CHESHIRE. Wanted to purchase Freehold Property with medium-sized house of character, home farm and up to about 50 Acres good land.—Full particulars to Box 683.

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HANTS, DORSET or DEVON: Army officer will give up to about £6,000 for small modernised Country House within easy reach of coast. 5-6 bedrooms, 3 reception. Main electric light and water. 10-30 acres. No agents.—Box 687.

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TO LET

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MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

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Situate over 400 ft. above sea level in a delightful old village within convenient reach of main line stations.

AN ATTRACTIVE RED BRICK HOUSE



containing drawing room (40 ft. x 24 ft.), 2 other reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Main services. Central heating

Groom's cottage (with 5 beds, 2 reception, 2 baths) 2 other cottages, 3 garages, stable yard with range of loose boxes, cowhouses, etc.

Matured gardens and pastureland, in all ABOUT 8 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,500

Full details from OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,447)

OXON

In a beautiful position on high ground with really delightful views.

AN ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE

Standing in well-timbered gardens and grounds With hall, 3-4 reception, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms.

Co.'s electric light and power. Central heating. Garage and useful Outbuildings.

Lawns, hard tennis court, well-stocked fruit and vegetable garden, etc. In all about

2 ACRES

For Sale at Greatly Reduced Price

Full details from: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,349)

HANTS

Splendidly situate with delightful views over the River Hamble and Southampton Water

TO BE SOLD

An ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE in the late Georgian style containing hall, 3 reception, 10 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms.

Main Electricity. Central Heating. Excellent Water Supply.

2 Cottages. Ample Outbuildings.

Delightful well-timbered gardens, orchards, walled kitchen garden, pasture and arable, in all

OVER 34 ACRES

Inspected and recommended by OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,450)

LOVELY OLD PERIOD HOUSE IN KENT

In beautiful well-wooded country near the sea and between the Parklands of two large Estates.

A WEALTH OF OLD-WORLD FEATURES YET UP-TO-DATE WITH MODERN REQUIREMENTS



Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, bathroom. Main Services. Central Heating.

Guest House (4 beds) Lodge Outbuildings

Picturesque old-world gardens with awns, flower gardens, kitchen garden, Running stream with waterfalls, 2 paddocks, in all

ABOUT 8 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (16,573)

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LONDON, W.1.

CURTIS & HENSON

Grosvenor (3131 3 lines).
Established 1875.

OXFORDSHIRE

¾ mile from Henley Station.

A MODERN RESIDENCE, pleasantly situated on high ground with fine views. Near bus service. 3 reception, 7 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Companies' electricity, gas and water. Central heating. Garage and outbuildings. Hard tennis court, lawns. Fruit and kitchen gardens. ABOUT 2 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD AT A REDUCED PRICE.

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7 miles Robertsbridge Station.

ORIGINALLY AN EARLY TUDOR "YEOMAN'S HALL" OF THE LATE XVth CENTURY. THOROUGHLY RENOVATED AND MODERNISED. 2 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, bathroom. Electric light, modern drainage. Garage. Picturesque grounds with tennis court and well-stocked orchard. ABOUT 6 ACRES.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Particulars from: CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount St., W.1. (16,404)

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Near Sutton and Cheam Stations. Half an hour by train to London.



EXCELLENTLY DESIGNED IN THE TUDOR STYLE. 3 reception, 9 bed and dressing rooms (6 with h. & c.), 2 bathrooms, 2 staircases. Co.'s electricity, gas and water. Central heating. Garage. Tennis court. Orchard and kitchen garden. FOR SALE FREEHOLD. Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,308)

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Near Malmesbury

A MODERN STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE. 300 ft. above sea level in matured grounds. 4 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Electric light. Central heating. Garages and stabling. Farmery and 3 cottages. Pasture and arable land.

ABOUT 160 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

SURREY

2½ miles Oxley Station.

A GEORGIAN RESIDENCE secluded, near a small town and adjacent to landed estates. 4 reception rooms, 14 bedrooms, bathroom, main drainage. Company's water. Electricity. Garages. Stabling and outbuildings. Grounds with woodland walks. Fertile and partly walled kitchen garden on southern slope. Two pasture fields.

ABOUT 12 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Details from: CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,134)

3, MOUNT ST.,
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RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

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ATTRACTIVE SMALL HOMES (WITH VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION) FOR BUSINESS MEN. Not more than half-an-hour from London.

ADJACENT WIMBLEDON COMMON, close to bus services; 10 minutes from station. PSEUDO-TUDOR HOUSE, erected only four years ago. Labour-saving to a last degree. Lounge hall and 2 large reception, 3 bedrooms (all with basins), 2 bathrooms. All services connected. Central heating everywhere. Garage. Matured garden of HALF-AN-ACRE bounded by woodland (National Trust). FREEHOLD ONLY £4,250. An unbelievable opportunity.

CLAYGATE, convenient for ESHER, and beautiful common lands. Only 5 minutes from station. EXTREMELY WELL-BUILT HOUSE in first-class order. 2 reception, 5 bedrooms (3 fitted with basins), bathroom, billiard room. ALL MAIN SERVICES CONNECTED. Fully stocked garden. 50 feet road frontage. Within reach of excellent Golf. Price Freehold £3,750.

NORTHWOOD, ADJOINING GOLF COURSE and NATIONAL TRUST WOODLAND; 300 feet above sea level; 12 minutes' walk station and shops. UNIQUE SMALL HOUSE (GEORGIAN RED-BRICK COPY), about 20 years old. 2 reception, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. Recently re-decorated throughout. ALL MAIN SERVICES. Garage. Woodland garden of about HALF-AN-ACRE. FREEHOLD £5,000 (or close offer). Some carpets and curtains could be purchased if required. Recommended with confidence.

LITTLE-KNOWN HERTFORDSHIRE

between Buntingford and Ware. Station half-a-mile.

QUAINT VILLAGE HOUSE

WITH GEORGIAN (ADAM) FRONT AND PART DATING FROM TUDOR PERIOD

2 large reception, maids' sitting room, 4 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, newly fitted bathroom, 2 attic bedrooms (or boxrooms). MAIN WATER CONNECTED. MAIN ELECTRICITY and DRAINAGE available. Garage. 5 loose boxes, etc.

SECLUDED

WALLED GARDEN OF HALF-AN-ACRE

Adjoining meadowland intersected by small river.

FREEHOLD £3,300.

POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

Recommended personally by Sole Agents: RALPH PAY & TAYLOR (as above).

TOTTENHAM COURT RD., W.1
(Euston 7000)

MAPLE & Co., Ltd.,

5, GRAFTON ST., MAYFAIR, W.1
(Regent 4685)

VALUATIONS

FURNITURE and EFFECTS

valued for Insurance, Probate, etc.

FURNITURE SALES

Conducted in Town and Country

APPLY—MAPLE & CO., 5, GRAFTON STREET, OLD BOND STREET, W.1

BERKS

Bray-on-Thames, near Maidenhead

FOR SALE AN ATTRACTIVE HOUSE in a garden of about

1 ACRE

Hall, 2 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, large bathroom and good offices. Electric light, gas, etc. Garage. There is also a piece of land with small boat-shed and landing stage to river.

PRICE FREEHOLD £3,500

Agents: MAPLE & Co., as above.

KENT AND SUSSEX BORDERS

on very high ground with fine view.

FOR SALE A MOST ATTRACTIVE

HOUSE on two floors only, having a very nice hall about 13 ft. square with fireplace, large drawing room, dining room, excellent offices with small sitting room for maids, 6-7 bedrooms, large bathroom. Electric light, etc. Spacious garage. GROUNDS OF NEARLY 1 ACRE with fine shrubberies, lawn, kitchen garden. The house well built with oak doors, fine oak staircase, etc.

Agents: MAPLE & Co., as above.

CHISLEHURST

High up with a pleasant view.

FOR SALE

AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE PROPERTY, comprising well appointed residence with all modern comforts in beautiful grounds of about 7½ ACRES, and approached by two long drives. Fine hall, 3 very good reception rooms, billiards room, 14 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Efficient central heating. Garages for 5 cars. Cottage, etc. Beautiful gardens and woodlands, orchard, etc. Moderate price. Highly recommended by MAPLE & Co., as above.

Grosvenor 1553
(4 lines)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

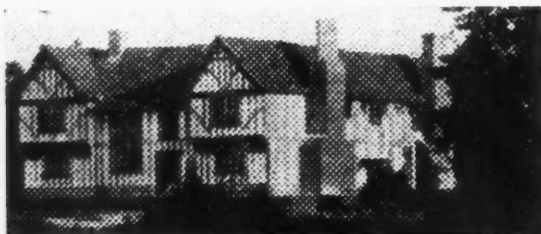
(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT ST., GROSVENOR SQ., W.1

Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
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TUDOR GEM IN SURREY

500 feet up. Overlooking Golf Course with gate thereto.



COMPLETELY MODERNISED AND ENLARGED IN KEEPING
8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge hall with beautiful oak stairs. Panelled drawing room, dining room, cloakroom. All main services. Central heating. Garage and Flat.
4 ACRES. IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (A.1993)

IN DOWNS BEHIND EASTBOURNE HISTORIC FARM FOR RESTORATION AFTER WAR



At present comprising PAIR OF FLINT COTTAGES, GREAT BARN, etc. Plans have been prepared for conversion into a charming old-world home of 9-10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, hall, 3 reception rooms, etc., with all main services.
2½ ACRES. MORE LAND PROBABLY AVAILABLE

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (B.9113)

OXFORD
4637/8.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

OXFORD & CHIPPING NORTON

CHIPPING
NORTON
39

BLEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

WITH VACANT POSSESSION OF THE WHOLE (excluding one Farm Cottage) UPON COMPLETION OF THE PURCHASE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE (IN 3 LOTS) OF

- (1) **THE PICTURESQUE, MODERNISED, THATCHED-ROOFED COTTAGE RESIDENCE**, known as ORCHARD DENE COTTAGE, BLEWBURY, with garage, garden, two greenhouses, and small orchard, in all about **ONE-AND-A-HALF ACRES.**
- (2) **THE FARM**, situated on the Downs, known as UPPER CHANCE FARM, BLEWBURY, comprising two cottages (one vacant, one let), farm buildings, and about **106 ACRES** of arable land.
- (3) **THE BLOCK OF MODERN STABLING**, known as FIELDSIDE STABLES, BLEWBURY, comprising ten model loose boxes, hay store, etc., together with two enclosures of arable land, in all about **19 ACRES.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION (unless previously disposed of) by Private Treaty) DURING JANUARY, 1944, by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, as above.
Particulars in course of preparation.

BETWEEN OXFORD AND HENLEY EXQUISITE MODERNISED OLD-WORLD RIVERSIDE RESIDENCE (1571)

3 sitting rooms, excellent domestic offices, 6 bedrooms, 3 well-fitted bathrooms. Main electric light; central heating, telephone; garage and outbuildings. Wet boat-house. In all about **12 acres** (mostly paddock and orchard).

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Apply: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, as above.

OXFORD 9 MILES

On the outskirts of an attractive village.

WELL-BUILT BRICK AND TILED MODERN COUNTRY HOUSE

2 sitting rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 box-rooms. Main electricity available. Telephone, good water supply. Garage. Garden and orchard. Vacant possession.

PRICE FREEHOLD £2,950
(or offer)

Apply: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, as above.

W. C. MITCHELL & SON

WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK. Tel.: 283.

NEWMARKET (Near)

BRICK AND TIMBERED COUNTRY HOUSE

Oak staircase, 5 reception, 16 bed and 4 bathrooms, music room. Elizabethan panelling, radiators, tiled kitchen.

Heated garage for 6 and chauffeurs' rooms.

Stabling for 12. Kennels.

Tennis court, spacious lawns, rose, Italian and kitchen gardens, glasshouses.

Just over 6 ACRES in all.

Renovated and redecorated to first-class condition.

POSSESSION ON COMPLETION OF PURCHASE.

FREEHOLD

For particulars apply:

W. C. MITCHELL & SON, Land and Estate Agents, Surveyors and Valuers,
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HARRY JUDGE

TENTERDEN, KENT. Tel.: 24.

GLORIOUS SUSSEX DOWNS, Near LEWES

UNEXPECTEDLY FOR SALE. IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

Occupying elevated and picked charming position in the country overlooking the sweep of the Downs and the Ouse Valley; only few minutes fast electric trains to London.

ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE

of 5 beds, 2 dress, rooms, bath room, oak panelled galleried lounge hall, 3 receptions, ample domestic offices. Modern conveniences. Charming informal gardens with fruit, and paddock of 5 acres. Good outbuildings including 2 loose boxes, garage.



Apply (Executors' Sole Agent): HARRY JUDGE, Tenterden, Kent.

184, BROMPTON ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.3

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY

Kensington
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RARELY OFFERED IN LOVELY SUSSEX

GENTLEMAN'S SMALL RESIDENTIAL FARM NEAR 30 ACRES

intersected by a stream and with wooded

Picturesque, 400 years old farmhouse; oak beams, open fireplaces, etc. 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, bath. Main water. Co.'s electric light.

Good farm buildings. Lovely old barn. Modern accredited cowhouse.

VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION

FOR SALE. FREEHOLD AT REASONABLE PRICE.

VERY SPECIAL INDEED

IN FACT UNIQUE

HERE IS A LOVELY LITTLE GEORGIAN HOUSE which fits exactly into that carefree old world time of long ago. A little place of character amidst lovely undulating, rural, countryside with beautiful views all around. High on a hill away from all turmoil. Yet only 16 miles out of London, in Essex, close to Ongar, near Abridge and at Stapleford Abbots, which is a little forgotten old-world place. In perfect order it contains nice hall, 2 reception, small breakfast room, large dairy, kitchen, scullery, 5 bedrooms, bath. Present lighting by lamps (electricity after the war). Main water. Modern drainage. Nice, easily managed garden, part walled. Pond meadow, 3 acres. Also included is an old timber-built cottage and a barn, stable, and other buildings.

THIS UNIQUE LITTLE PEACE FREEHOLD FOR ONLY £2,550

View at once to secure. Sole Agents: BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, as above.

BETWEEN MALVERN AND GLOUCESTER

Very fine position.

GENTLEMAN'S FIRST-CLASS DAIRY AND STOCK FARM MOST BEAUTIFUL ELIZABETHAN BLACK AND WHITE RESIDENCE Electricity. Unfailing water supply. Modern drainage. "Aga" and every convenience. FINE HUNTER STABLING also Black and White. Splendid buildings. Old tithe barn.

132 ACRES WELL WATERED BY STREAMS AND PONDS

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION now or by arrangement. BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, 184, Brompton Road, S.W.3. (Kens. 0152.)

DEVON and S. & W. COUNTIES

FOR SELECTED LISTS OF
PROPERTIES

RIPPON, BOSWELL & CO., F.A.I.

(Est. 1884.) EXETER.

GENTLEMAN'S FARM FAVOURITE NEWBURY

PICTURESQUE MANOR RESIDENCE, containing 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, bath; with main electric light and water. 3 cottages with main services. Good buildings and **110 ACRES**, mostly rich well-watered grass. Several excellent stud boxes. Unique estate such as is rarely obtainable in the greatly favoured locality.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

at reasonable price, with early possession. Stock optional.

Further details of **BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY**, 184, Brompton Road, S.W.3. (Kens. 0152-3).

CHELTHAM and NORTH COTSWOLD

G. H. BAYLEY & SONS

(Established over three-quarters of a Century.)

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JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

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(10 lines)

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Possession about June, 1944.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (2 MILES FROM CHELTENHAM)



500 FT. UP ON THE HILLS WITH EXTENSIVE VIEWS ON THREE SIDES.
3 reception rooms, cloakroom, w.c., etc., 8 bedrooms (5 fitted with basins), 4 bathrooms,
3 w.c.s.

All main services Central heating throughout.

Garage for 3 cars. Ample outbuildings.

TENNIS AND CROQUET LAWNS. FERTILE KITCHEN GARDEN,

2 ORCHARDS, in all about

4 1/4 ACRES.

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,500

For further particulars apply : JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (Tel. : Mayfair 6341.) (73,290)

HERTFORDSHIRE

1/2 miles main line station with express service to London in 40 minutes.

SECONDARY HOUSE ON LARGE ESTATE TO BE LET UNFURNISHED

Hall, 3 good sitting-rooms (all South), 9-10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms.

Main electricity. Water laid on. Some central heating.

GARAGE. 2 COTTAGES. SMALL FARMERY.

10 ACRES

FINELY TIMBERED.

£250 PER ANNUM ON FULL REPAIRING LEASE

Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1. (Tel. : Mayfair 6341.)

Vacant possession on completion of the purchase.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Convenient for Berkhamsted and Ashridge Golf Courses. Main line Station within a mile.

10 bedrooms, dressing-room, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception-rooms. Lodge, 3 cottages.

Garage for 3, stabling, etc.

Main water and gas laid on. Electric light.

EXCELLENT GARDEN, ORCHARD AND PADDOCKS, in all about

6 ACRES

PRICE £10,000

Full Particulars of JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1.

(Tel. : Mayfair 6341.) (40,549)

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO.

Central
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(Established 1798)
AUCTIONEERS. CHARTERED SURVEYORS. LAND AGENTS.
29, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4

Telegrams :
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HERTFORDSHIRE

For post-war occupation. London 15 miles.

THIS ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD

HALL.

3 RECEPTION ROOMS.

6 BEDROOMS.

DRESSING ROOM.

2 BATH ROOMS.



MAIN SERVICES.

CENTRAL HEATING.

GARAGE WITH ROOMS
OVER

ABOUT 2 1/2 ACRES

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(Folio 13,758)

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OLD SUSSEX HOUSE MODERNISED AND MINIATURE FARM
£5,500 Triangle of Haywards Heath, East Grinstead and Uckfield. CHARACTERISTIC RESIDENCE with 2 reception, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, compact electricity and water. Excellent buildings (accredited) and sound land about 5 ACRES FREEHOLD. WELLESLEY-SMITH, as above.

BETWEEN WINCHESTER AND ALRESFORD
£5,000 with 13 ACRES. OLD-FASHIONED MODERNISED HOUSE on 2 floors only with 3 good reception. Cloaks. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Electric light. Aga cooker. Garage. Bungalow. Well-timbered garden and valuable market garden land. FREEHOLD. WELLESLEY-SMITH, as above.

BARGAIN IN OXON.

£2,000 Between Chipping Norton and Banbury. In favourite village. Near station and bus service. STONE-BUILT HOUSE in excellent order and 2 floors only, 3 sitting, 5/6 bedrooms, bathroom. Company's electricity. Water and main drainage. Stabling. Garage and garden. FREEHOLD ABOUT AN ACRE. WELLESLEY-SMITH, as above.

CLAUD AUSTIN, F.V.I.

LLOYDS BANK CHAMBERS, HENLEY-ON-THAMES. Tel. 686.

DIRECT RIVER FRONTAGE BETWEEN HENLEY AND OXFORD

Circa 1571.



Exquisite old-world Residence, originally a malthouse, beautifully modernised and appointed, and having masses of oak beams and other characteristic features. 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception, cloakroom, Aga cooker, constant hot water. Co.'s electricity. Garages for several cars. Billiard room and workshop. Wet boat-house. Walled pleasure garden, orchard and paddock extending to

12 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD, £7,300
Apply : CLAUD AUSTIN, as above.

23, MOUNT ST.,
GROSVENOR SQ., LONDON, W.1

WILSON & CO.

Grosvenor
1441

FINE QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

In a lovely, unspoiled part of Suffolk.



A MOST DELIGHTFUL OLD HOUSE with period decorations and surrounded by lovely old gardens with ornamental water. 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception. Electric light. Central heating. Home Farm (let). 3 Cottages. **FOR SALE WITH 200 ACRES WITH POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR.**

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

HISTORIC GEORGIAN HOUSE

ON AN OLD-WORLD COMMON

About 12 miles from London, near Richmond.

THIS LOVELY PERIOD HOUSE, rich in characteristic features including a remarkably fine staircase, has been the subject of enormous expenditure and is in first-rate order. The walled gardens of about 3 acres with fine old cedars include swimming pool. Hard tennis court and prolific kitchen garden.

10 or 12 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, staff sitting room and good domestic offices. 2 cottages, garage, etc.

THE LEASE IS FOR DISPOSAL WITH POSSESSION AND AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY OCCURS OF SECURING A VERY BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY ON MODERATE TERMS.

Sole Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

BEAUTIFUL ART OF SUSSEX

500 ft. up. Glorious views. 1½ miles from small market town



A BARGAIN PRICE (about half cost) will be accepted for this remarkably beautiful house set in perfect old gardens and its estate of some **83 ACRES**. 12 bedrooms, 4 baths, fine hall, 4 reception. Small farm, 5 cottages, etc. An exceptional opportunity for post-war occupation. Good income meantime. Sole agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

F. L. MERCER & CO.

SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND HOUSES
SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1. REGENT 2481

DORSET HILLS

BEAUTIFUL MODERN HOME, with views to Poole Harbour and Corfe Castle. Oak panelling, parquet floors. Aga cooker. Central heating; electric light. 3 reception, 6 bedrooms (fitted basins), dressing room, 2 bathrooms, 2 Garages. Lovely gardens nearly **6 ACRES**. **£7,500**.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

BETWEEN FARNHAM & HASLEMERE WEST SURREY

ATTRACTIVE SMALL HOUSE built 1936, TUDOR STYLE. Lounge hall, 2 reception, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. Main services. Garage.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

WILTS. Near Chippenham & Malmesbury **DELIGHTFUL 16th CENTURY COTTAGE**. 3 reception, 5 bedrooms (fitted basins), bath. Central heating. Company's water; electricity. Garage. Excellent garden and fruit. **1½ ACRES**. **£3,500**.—F. L. MERCER AND Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

A home of characteristic dignity and charm.
UNEQUALLED IN TO-DAY'S MARKET
SUPERB POSITION, SURREY HILLS
Between Oxted and Nutfield, 30 minutes London.
EXQUISITE GEORGIAN CHARACTER HOUSE.

3 charming reception with parquet floors, 7 bedrooms (with fitted wash basins), dressing room, 3 beautifully fitted bathrooms, model domestic offices. Central heating. All main services. Pretty entrance lodge; 2 superior cottages. Lovely gardens with hard tennis court, orchard, and paddock, **12 ACRES**. **£15,000**, considerably less than cost.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

TEMPTING INVESTMENT FOR FUTURE OCCUPATION. SURREY
Close to Virginia Water and Wentworth

Let to Company for duration at **£950 per annum**
A HOUSE OF CHARACTER. 3 reception, billiards, 9 bedrooms (fitted basins), 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Main services. 2 Garages. Cottage. Attractive gardens and **9 ACRES**. **£5,500**.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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CHARMING MODERN ARCHITECT - BUILT RESIDENCE. 3 reception, 4-6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main services. Garage. Well-wooded garden **1 ACRE**. **£5,000** Possession after the war.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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ARTISTIC SMALL MODERN HOUSE. 2 reception, playroom, 4 bedrooms, bathroom. Main services. Garage. Matured garden **¾ ACRE**. **£2,750**.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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£3,500 with 3½ ACRES

Natural swimming pool, and river frontage.

OLD-WORLD COTTAGE. 4 sitting, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main electricity. Barn. Garage. Easily run garden.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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THE AGENTS FOR THE WEST

A LOVELY UNIMPAIRED COTSWOLD MANOR

GLOS.-WILTS BORDERS
in choice district

A MODERNISED BUT UNSPOILED ARCHITECTURAL GEM

3-4 reception, 8 bed, 3 bathrooms. Main electricity. Cottage. Old gardens.

25 ACRES. PRICE £9,000

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N. WILTSHIRE. £5,000

GEORGIAN HOUSE

Close village and 3½ miles good town and main line station.

3 reception, 5 bed, bathroom. Main electricity, water and drains. Central heating. 6 loose-boxes, garages, etc. Charming gardens and paddocks.

5 ACRES

CHAMBERLAINE-BROTHERS & HARRISON, as above.

WITH 1 MILE SALMON AND TROUT FISHING CAERNARVONSHIRE

(2 miles good town, beautiful position)

SPLENDIDLY EQUIPPED SQUARE BUILT STONE RESIDENCE

Drive with lodge. Lounge hall, 3-4 rec. rooms, 9 bed and dressing, 4 bathrooms. Electricity from turbine. Gravitation water. Garages, stables. Model Home Farm with modern shippon for 20, 4 cottages. Lovely old timbered grounds and rich land.

IN ALL ABOUT 110 ACRES. POSSESSION. PRICE £9,750 FREEHOLD

CHAMBERLAINE-BROTHERS & HARRISON (as above)

S. DEVON. 196 ACRES

BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED COUNTRY RESIDENCE

(in lovely surroundings)
10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception. Excellent offices, with "Esse" cooker. Main electricity. Central heating. Garages, stables. Cottages. Home Farm. All in hand.

PRICE £19,000 FREEHOLD

FISHING.

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CARDIGANSHIRE (8 ms. ABERYSTWYTH) GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

(In lovely country, 1½ miles from sea, near main 'bus route)
Hall and cloak room, 3 good rec. rooms, 7 bedrooms, bathroom, garage and outbuildings. Gravitation water. Lovely wooded surroundings, walled garden. Pasture and woodland.

ABOUT 20 ACRES. £3,500 OR NEAR

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TO LET FURNISHED

Monmouth 4 miles (bus route)

AN UNIQUE PROPERTY

in a wonderful situation

Built and laid out by famous expert on houses and gardens. 5 bed, 3 bath, 3 reception (one 27 ft. by 24 ft.), electric light. Central heating. "Aga" cooker. Garages and buildings. Enchanting gardens of character.

RENT 10 QNS. P.W.

including gardener, for 1 year or longer.

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Grosvenor 2861. Telegrams "Cornishmen, London"

YACHT MOORING ON HAMBLE RIVER HANTS COAST

Lovely views Hamble River to Isle of Wight

MODERN HOUSE IN ELIZABETHAN STYLE. Carriage drive. Lounge hall, 3 reception (24ft. x 18ft. 26ft. 6in. x 14ft. 15ft. x 14ft.), cloakroom, 2 bathrooms, 6 bed and dressing rooms. Main water and electricity. Part central heating. Telephone. Grounds **2½ ACRES**. Garage. **BOATHOUSE** with sail loft, landing steps. **5,000 GUINEAS.**

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COTSWOLDS 50 ACRES

½ mile village and station.

CHARMING STONE RESIDENCE with mullioned windows. Carriage drive. Hall, 3 reception, 3 bathrooms, 11 bed and dressing rooms (some h. & c.). Electric light. Central heating. Telephone. Free water supply. Garages; 6 loose boxes. Lodge; man's room. Attractive gardens, kitchen garden, rich pastures (let). Would sell house with less land. Inspected and recommended.—TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (12,480)

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250 ft. up. Bus service passes.

FOR SALE, DELIGHTFUL STONE RESIDENCE. Hall, 3 reception, 3 bath, 8 bed (some h. & c.). Aga. Main electricity. Telephone. Garages, 6 loose boxes. Excellent lodge. Charming pleasure gardens, kitchen garden, paddocks, etc. **15 ACRES. Possession March 25, 1944**

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It is essential to the interests of Landowners that parcels should be properly graded and measured before a sale is entered into.

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HARRODS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE HOUSE

62/64, BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1

OFFICES

West Byfleet
and Haslemere
Offices

HARROW ON THE HILL

A REALLY UNIQUE PROPERTY
with far reaching views to the South

THIS FASCINATING FREEHOLD PROPERTY

approached by a long carriage drive and immune from building encroachment.

Panelled hall. 3 good reception rooms, 6 to 7 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Complete offices. Companies' mains. Central heating. Telephone. Lavatory basins. Good garage and outbuildings. DELIGHTFUL PLEASURE GROUNDS with TENNIS LAWN, WELL-STOCKED KITCHEN GARDEN, ROCKERY WITH WATERFALL. Paddock and woodland. IN ALL

ABOUT 4½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH EARLY POSSESSION



c.4

Inspected and enthusiastically recommended by the Sole Agents: HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road, S.W.1. (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 806.)

CHOICEST PART OF PURLEY c.3

High ground. Near favourite Golf Course. Amidst ideal surroundings.



RESIDENCE OF ARCHITECTURAL MERIT

3 reception, cloakroom, 4 bedrooms, 2 tiled bathrooms. Main drainage. Companies' electric light, gas, water.

Garage for two cars. Greenhouse.

LOVELY GARDEN with lawn, terrace, vegetable garden. In all about

¾ ACRE FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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30 MILES LONDON c.2

Occupying an enviable position with panoramic views. ½ mile from village, convenient for several good towns.

GENUINE AND BEAUTIFUL TUDOR HOUSE

POSSESSING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERIOD.



3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's sitting room. Main water and electricity.

Central heating. Garage

GARDENS, GROUNDS and Paddock, in all about

7 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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SUCCESSFUL AND PROSPEROUS RESTAURANT (Fully Licensed) T.1

WITH EXCEPTIONAL CLIENTELE

Situate in a residential and business neighbourhood on a busy main road where demand both private and commercial is continuous.

RESTAURANT WELL KNOWN FOR ITS EXCELLENT CUISINE

Has been developed and run for many years under Owner's personal supervision and is now showing handsome returns.

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HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road, S.W.1. (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 806.)

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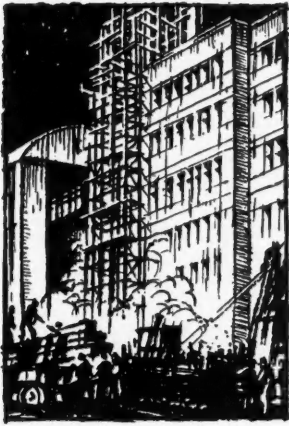
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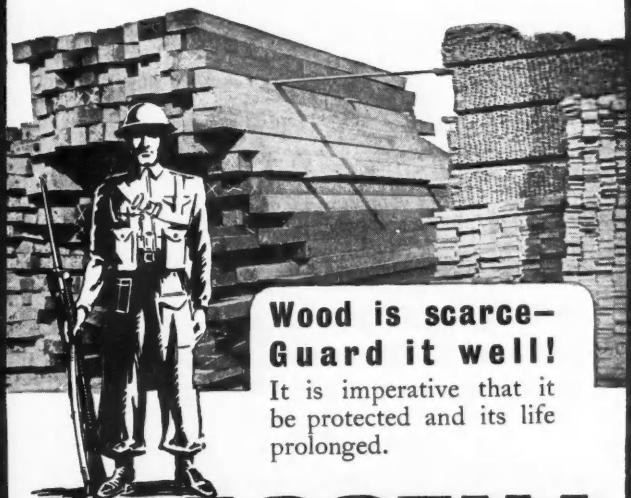
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCIV. No. 2449

DECEMBER 24, 1943



Vivian, Hereford

LADY LETTICE COTTERELL WITH JOHN, THOMAS, ROSE AND ANNE

Lady Lettice Cotterell, who was married in 1930 to Sir Richard Cotterell, Bt., is the eldest daughter of the 7th Earl Beauchamp. Major Sir Richard Cotterell is serving with the Royal Artillery in the Middle East. This photograph was taken at Byford Court, Herefordshire, their present home

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CHRISTMAS

MANY of our cherished institutions have had to give way under the stress of war-time, but Christmas, the good St. Christmas as he is called in some editions of *Pickwick*, has most resolutely kept his flag flying. The festival has naturally been shorn of some of its more lavish splendours; puddings are not what they were and turkeys are hard to come by, but in all essentials it is the same as ever, and we may hope that this one will be an old-fashioned Christmas, worthy of a long line of jovial predecessors. Whether it will be old-fashioned in the more technical sense we do not yet know, and when we do know we shall not be allowed to say so, except as regards the celebrations in the Straits of Dover. The legend that frost and snow at this season belong to an earlier age, so gloriously kept alive on Christmas cards by robins and silver-frosted churchyards, is one of respectable antiquity. A writer in the *Manchester Guardian* has unearthed a correspondent's letter in 1853, drawing attention to the wintry conditions as being after an older fashion. It seems likely that the alterations of the calendar in the eighteenth century, by shifting Christmas forward eleven days, did separate it from the cold spell that is frequent in what is now early January. But most probably we owe our notions of what Christmas used and ought to be to the account of the jollities at Dingley Dell. That has made for ever appropriate the cold wind that rumbled in the chimney and blew the snow across the fields in a thick white cloud.

In one regard there was a similarity between that Christmas and those in war-time. To-day guests must help by bearing their sheaves of rations with them and Mr. *Pickwick* did likewise by bringing barrels of oysters and the "implacable" cod-fish. In another respect we seem to have outstripped our ancestors, for there is no mention of presents at Manor Farm, nor for that matter is there at another Christmas party, that given by Scrooge's nephew. Those parties were before the days of the Prince Consort, who made popular the Christmas tree, and what is a Christmas tree without presents sparkling amid its branches? So perhaps, when we think of the patron saints of the feast as we know it, we ought to surround the united names of Charles Dickens and Prince Albert "with a rich halo of enthusiastic cheering."

The fact that Christmas comes but once a year is one of its unquestioned merits. There are some who, conscience-stricken with the letters they ought to write and don't, harassed by parcels and string and brown paper all over the house, having no properly romantic feeling for secrets, quote the words with cynical approval. Most people, however, take them in a simpler and kinder sense, regarding Christmas

as a happy break in the year, when for a short while, even in such times as these, care may be laid aside and a friendly and unforced cheerfulness prevail. It is a time at which a little wishful thinking is surely permissible, and if we may hope that this will be the last Christmas of the war it will be all the brighter for that.

THE ROADS OF THE FUTURE

AMONG the "originating" Ministries which, under the arrangements recently detailed by Sir William Jowitt, will now be called upon to submit their post-war plans to the new Minister of Reconstruction, the Ministry of (War) Transport occupies a key position. That it is getting on with the job is apparent from the sketch of various projects for inclusion in a long-term programme of traffic development which Mr. Noel-Baker recently laid before a Leeds accident prevention conference. Though the effectiveness of new or converted roads depends first and foremost on their siting, there can be no doubt as to the usefulness of such devices as the segregation of various types of traffic, and the elimination by viaduct, subway and clover-leaf junctions of cross-road intersections. All such improvements will miss the mark, however, unless they are intelligently fitted into the local as well as regional planning schemes, and here will be opportunity in plenty for fruitful co-operation between the Ministries of Transport and Planning and the local planning authorities. But if the problems of transport and road safety in that terrifying era 20 years ahead, when we must expect four times the pre-war number of vehicles on the road, cannot be solved merely by the use of radio-location devices and escalators, they can no doubt be simplified by the early building of "throughways" across open country. That these need be by no means unsightly and can actually contribute a noble quality to some landscapes, when adjusted to contours and existing woodland, is shown by some remarkable "photographs" in the British Road Federation exhibition. It would be cheaper and safer to leave tinkering at some hopeless old main roads and, as the Association suggests, build a thousand miles of properly-planned and sited motor roads.

A CHRISTMAS MOOD

*At this Feast of Christ where the wine's poured
out for laughter,
When half of the notes ring false, and half ring true,
When Time is too full, and the mind's like a
breaking rafter
From the burden of too much buying and having
to do,
My thoughts are with Spring, stream-caught in
the shadowy mountains
Where willow and alder with holly and pine fleck
the view
And the larches are candled with green, and Life's
at its fountains
And the snared trout shine like dawn, so fair their
hue.*

HERBERT PALMER.

STRENGTHENING PARISH COUNCILS

ON another page we publish a letter from Mr. P. C. Loftus, M.P., in which he suggests that we desire to abolish the old institution of the parish meeting. In this he is mistaken; but we are grateful to him for the opportunity to clarify our suggestion that the parish meeting should cease to be an executive body—where it still remains so. At present many rural parishes have no representative parish council. The parish meeting, functioning through its chairman, is the recognised local government authority for the parish, retaining the powers and duties which (in parishes such as that described by Mr. Loftus) are normally delegated to an elected parish council. We are not alone in doubting whether the retention of such powers and duties by a public meeting—even though another such meeting must be held within the year—is quite so democratic a procedure as it sounds. There is much evidence, in any case, that it is not always an efficient one, and—what is increasingly important to-day—it provides no representative basis for concerted action with parish

authorities elsewhere to secure general recognition of common interests. These are the reasons why we recommended the abolition of parish meetings as executive units of local government, and the compulsory election of a representative parish council in every parish. Parishes which already possess a council would be unaffected. In the others the annual meeting would continue (as in Mr. Loftus's parish to-day) to elect its parish councillors, to receive and approve of any charity accounts and generally to make its views on parish affairs clear to its representatives on the council. There is no reason why very small parishes should not be grouped together and elect joint parish councils to act for their group.

TURKEY TALK

I never in my life tasted anything so complete, so tender, and so succulent. It really seemed to bring back my appetite. And it is a food you can live on in all forms, delicious cold, fascinating minced, and, when boiled, fit for god-like suppers.

THUS Disraeli, after having lunched on a young turkey. And Brillat-Savarin is reputed to have expressed the view that turkey, even cold turkey, was the best thing the New World had sent the Old. But those many of us who have no turkey this year may properly comfort ourselves on the sour grapes principle by recalling that the Austrians and some other peoples hold the turkey to be the poorest of all table birds. Indeed, there can be relatively few gourmets who would not put our own chief game birds—red grouse, partridge and even pheasant—before the largest game bird in the world. Yet size admittedly counts for something: certainly the Russians thought so, when they adopted emus and founded emu farms to provide table birds, and presumably size had something to do with the high esteem in which peacocks were formerly held till in Tudor times the turkey arrived. It had been used by the Aztecs to feed the carnivores in their zoos and now borrowed a misleading label from the guinea-fowls, which had previously been known as turkeys because they were first obtained from mussulman or Turkish traders in North Africa.

CAROLS

CHRISTMAS carols are most properly in season from Christmas Eve to Candlemas (February 2). Whatever defence may be made of premature carol-singing, it seems regrettable that as soon as the first Sunday after Christmas is past there are few carols to be heard anywhere. We could enjoy a longer (and less precocious) season of Christmas carols, especially since no other festival is now welcomed with these "songs with a religious impulse that are simple, hilarious, popular." Indeed, it is often forgotten that there are carols proper to Easter and spring, Ascension-tide and Whitsun-tide, and even Harvest. In this connection it may be recalled that the tune of *Good King Wenceslas* has been used with that Christmas carol only since 1853: Helmore actually lifted it from the 16th-century Swedish collection of *Piae Cantiones*, where it belonged to a Latin spring carol, but it possibly came originally from a secular May carol: echoes of it are to be heard in a game-song still known to some Dutch children. And here is a half-answer to a question too rarely asked, "What is a carol?" Surely the essence of a true carol tune lies in its rhythm—its close and obvious relationship to a dance measure? The most probable derivation of "carol" refers to dancing, and Spanish children still dance to carols. This limiting definition is no depreciation of the closely-allied lullabies and cradle-songs, or of the motets, anthems and hymns which are now called carols: many are delightful and most seasonable at Christmas and Epiphany, and there are of course several border-line examples such as the wholly charming 14th-century *In dulci jubilo*: but it is well to understand and appreciate the peculiar (and may we say ingenuously rustic?) character of such melodies as *We three kings, I saw three ships* and *The holly and the ivy*. So, understanding and appreciating, we might revive the carols proper to festivals other than Christmas.



A. H. Robinson

THE SNOWS AT CHRISTMAS: FORGE VALLEY, SCARBOROUGH

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

I HAVE seen recently a grandfather's clock which is something of a mystery, as it is inscribed with the name Hardwick, of whom, I am told, there is no record as a recognisable maker in the grandfather-clock era, and he gives his address as Ashwick, a town or village which does not apparently exist to-day. The clock itself is a particularly fine piece of work, with a beautifully proportioned and engraved arched brass dial, and is not later than 1730; and there is nothing about it to suggest that it is a 'prentice effort in a craft which was not followed up. The only little peculiarity about it is that Mr. Hardwick did not leave himself quite enough space for the engraving of his name, and as a result he has had to put the final "k" above the line.

Nobody knows apparently where Ashwick is or was, and there is no record of it in the *Post Office Directory*, any gazetteer or automobile road book, and therefore it has obviously changed its name. Although the various reference books have failed to throw any light on the matter I feel certain some COUNTRY LIFE reader will be able to clear up the mystery. Changes in spelling, and even the dropping of syllables in our place-names, are not unusual, and one might quote Arundel which was once Arundale, Romsey late Rumsey, and Bright-helmstone now Brighton; but it is not usual for the inhabitants of a village to christen it with an entirely new name. The only case of this I can call to mind is Ham Street on the north side of Romney Marsh, which in other days was known as Orlestone, and why the people of Orlestone woke up one morning to find they were living in Ham Street has never been explained to me satisfactorily.

ALL I know of Ham Street is that it is the scene annually of one of the largest sheep fairs in the south of England, and it is to Ham Street that one goes if one wishes to buy or inspect the best of the Romney or Kent strain. The other big annual sheep fair in the south is held at Weyhill, and the peculiarity about both these famous sheep fairs which attract hundreds, if not thousands, of buyers, sellers and onlookers is that they are both situated in open country far from any large town where there would be sufficient hotel accommodation for the immigration of visitors. Of more recent times with the advent of the motor car this is not a matter of very great moment, but in the past, when the sheep fairs were even more popular, it was a considerable inconvenience, and many who attended were in the habit of dossing for the night in their dog-carts and phaetons.

Once this matter of holding important fairs in isolated places the Irish, of course, bear the palm, for the biggest and most famous blood-horse fair in the world is held at Cahirmee, and Cahirmee is just a name on the map marking some secondary cross-roads in open country, and nothing else. To Cahirmee in the past came hunting men from the Shires, steeplechaser breeders and cavalry officers from almost every

country in the world—German, Italian, French, Swedish and Hungarian. If one wanted to buy a heavy-weight hunter one was up against the bids of these foreign officers to whom the sky was the limit, for they were dealing with Government, not private, funds, and as an ex-Government official myself I know what a feeling of confidence and exhilaration this gives one.

SOME 30 years ago, round about the hour of midnight, I was crossing the wide arena which leads on to the various platforms at Waterloo Station when I heard a noise—a noise so terrific and so discordant that it is impossible to think of any adjective with which to describe it. All I can say is that it froze the cockles of my heart, raised the hair on my head and scared about 10 years' growth out of me. The explanation was quite simple, for it chanced to be the last day of the Christmas term at Sandhurst, and some happy embryo warriors in search of amusement had found a large hand-trolley laden with three dozen, maybe forty, empty milk churns. They had galloped this to the entrance of one of the big subterranean chambers beneath the station, and had let the whole consignment roll down the flight of steps at the same moment. Until one has heard perhaps three dozen empty milk churns falling down several fathoms of hard stone steps one does not know what a noise is really like.

Years passed. I served through four years of the last war and some bombing in this, but I never heard anything so deafening and discordant as the Waterloo-Sandhurst symphony concert until the other evening when, in the peace and calm of saddlebag chairs over the fire, someone without warning switched on the wireless. I do not know if the B.B.C. were trying out a very modern composer, or whether they were providing what is called incidental musical effects to some murder story, but evidently we had struck the exact moment when the conductor of the band had made a forcible downward sweep with his baton, shouting: "Let her go!" Books fell from nerveless hands, the electric light flickered and the dog bolted for cover.

I know now where that B.B.C. musical director obtained his inspiration—he must have been on Waterloo Station thirty odd years ago when the Sandhurst cadets were going home for the Christmas holidays.

IT occurred to me recently how very seldom it is these times that one sees a drunken man, or even one "with the drink taken," a Hibernian and more genteel form of insobriety. Is this due to a general improvement in our strength of character, to a general deterioration in the

strength of our alcohol, to people having stronger heads than formerly, or just because drink is more expensive? A few years ago when I was with a young nephew we saw a drunken man reeling down the street, and the boy asked in surprise what was the matter with him, as he had never before seen a man in that condition. I recalled that, when I was my nephew's age some forty years previously, this was a quite common sight, for I saw a drunken man almost every day, and a round dozen or so at Wednesday markets.

Drunkenness in most cases is merely disgusting, but occasionally, when the subject is fully aware of his condition and employs artifices to hide it, it can be very amusing. Many years ago there was an old, but brilliant, judge who lived permanently in the leading hotel of one of our dependencies, and who did himself so well on six o'clock "sundowners" every evening that by dinner-time he was invariably in that stage where, though his brain and speech were functioning normally, his legs had gone right back on him. His table for some unexplained reason was set at the far end of the dining-room, and, as he always arrived late, it was one of the show sights of the place to see him make the skilful landfall of his seat through the uncharted reefs as represented by tables of all sizes.

It was quite impossible for him to reach his place in one hop, for negotiating his way round tables when he saw so many of them was very difficult, and his method of getting across the room without disaster was most ingenious. Having mapped out his course at the doorway of the dining-room he would brace himself together, and a hurried, but quite stately, trot would bring him to the first table on which he would land with both hands in a manner suggestive of an eagle alighting by a kill. He would then bend over the occupants and make a few remarks on the weather, or the latest political situation, and poise himself for his next flight. This would bring him to a table half-way down the main alleyway of the room, and here, after the usual light conversation, he would pull himself together for the really dangerous part of the voyage—the passage at a tangent through a maze of tables to his own seat, which must have been like finding one's way through the Marquesas Islands in thick weather on a dead reckoning.

HIS disability prevented him from changing course while on a run, and this necessitated much careful tacking from table to table, always with appropriate remarks to the diners on current topics, but eventually with a sigh of relief from everyone in the room he would come into harbour. He would sink into his chair with something in the nature of a thud, pick up the menu and study it upside down. Then with a judicial admonitory look round the room, and with the practised skill of the habitual teetotaler, he would pour himself out a large glass of water.

BEAUTIES OF FROST

By ARTHUR F. PARK

SOLID forms of water are as beautiful and varied as the processes of their production. They occur in four main forms—ice, snow, hoar-frost and rime—all of which consist exclusively of ice. The marked difference in their external characteristics is due to variations in the physical conditions which govern their formation.

To the naked eye snow, hoar and rime appear as white opaque substances, owing to the reflection of light in all directions from their innumerable facets. A strong pocket lens will reveal their structure of transparent ice crystals.

Under the influence of wind, humidity, temperature and other physical factors in various combinations, many types of crystal will evolve. The terms hoar-frost and rime are extensively confused and misused and even regarded as synonymous terms for one product. Actually they are two entirely different substances, formed by diverse processes, despite their superficial resemblance.

Moisture is always present in the atmosphere, whose capacity to hold it is determined by temperature, and no other factor. It exists in the form of invisible water-vapour. As the air cools the relative humidity increases and finally reaches saturation point, when humidity is 100 per cent. This stage is called the dew point, below which, in terms of temperature, moisture will be thrown out.

When the dew point occurs above freezing point, deposition is in the form of rain, mist or dew. Below freezing point, hoar frost or rime will occur near ground level, or snow in the upper regions.

Snow and hoar are produced by sublimation, a property shared by very few substances, among which are iodine and water. Sublimation consists of the direct transition from vapour



A SCENE EMBELLISHED BY HOAR-FROST AND RIME

to the solid state, without the assumption of the intermediate liquid state. Conversely, ice in all its forms evaporates, subliming directly to the gaseous state, without melting.

Sublimation is dependent on a nucleus, which is provided by such an object as a twig or grass blade, near ground level. In the higher regions specks of dust, or ice particles produced by the coalescence of super-cooled water droplets, colliding and inducing freezing, furnish the nuclei upon which snowflakes sublime.

A snowflake in its initial stages is a small, crystalline, hexagonal plate which, descending

by gravity, obeys the law that a falling object will offer the greatest resistance to the medium in which it exists, and thus it travels broadside on. The periphery encounters the greatest volume of vapour and radial spikes proceed to develop from the points of the hexagon, branching into complex dendritic forms as the falling flake encounters temperature and humidity variations.

Snowflakes formed in relatively high temperatures are usually large, while those produced under colder conditions tend to be small and compact, falling to earth in the hexagonal plate form or as dry spikes and granular clumps. Some are brittle and shatter upon impact with a hard surface, these being mainly flakes iced in a cold sphere after passage through a moist cloud layer. The specific gravity of dry newly-fallen snow is about .06—some 94 per cent. of the volume thus consists of air, as in the case of hoar, formed by the same process.

Hoar is a very beautiful product, which exists in many variations. A clear sky and calm conditions are conducive to the deposition of surface hoar, which forms on snow surfaces as somewhat large, flat, leaf-like structures. These are often orientated with considerable uniformity, indicating the source of the vapour supply, which the slightest air movement will render directional. The crunch of footsteps in hard snow is largely due to the shattering of these crystals, which form only at ground level.

The abundance of water vapour in the vicinity of rivers and streams, and in hollows and valleys, which are receptacles into which cold air flows, favours copious hoar formation. Frozen marshes near running or open water provide an ideal site for the formation of frost flowers. The profuse vapour supplies sublime on surface irregularities on the ice, or projecting grass blades, in the form of spiked rosettes, which extend and branch until pyramids or rounds of fern-like structure, 3 or 4 ins. in height and base, are assumed. They will also appear along cracks in the ice, where an ample supply of local vapour exists.

Where rapids and cataracts occur the broken waters afford vapour in abundance and here, on the banks,



WATER FLOWING OVER GLEAMING FRAZIL ICE

will be found the best hoar effects. Every twig and branch is a condensation point for the rising vapour, which sublimes on the undersides in thick, fluffy swathes, some bushes so white as to appear snow-covered. The crystals of air hoar assume the form of spiked edifices, compared with the flat, leaf-like structure of surface hoar. The difference is due to situation—whether on or above the ground; each type is confined to its own sphere.

Air hoar accretion flourishes in a light breeze, whereby constant supplies of vapour are transported to the seat of condensation. A velocity of 3-6 miles per hour is ideal—the mechanical impact of a strong wind would destroy the crystals as they formed.

Ground contours have a pronounced influence on frost distribution. Where an irregularity occurs, however slight, the cold air falls, seeking the lowest level, thus providing an excess of vapour for deposition on the herbage over which it flows. Profuse deposits are thus localised on the vegetation around holes, rabbit-burrow entrances, etc. A fall of even an inch or two suffices for this selective action, as can be seen by observing the heavy spikes which form around the perimeter of butt-cup and other low-lying leaves, the spiked accretions being absent in the centre area of relative tranquillity.

The leaf designs surrounded by areas of clear glass, which adorn window-panes, arise from sublimation. The principle "Unto him that hath shall be given" operates extensively in nature, and in this case the crystals that form first, usually in small scratches, greedily acquire the whole vapour supply, denuding their surroundings. When



FROST FLOWERS ON POND ICE



LEAF PATTERN FORMED BY FROST ON A WINDOW-PANE

an excess of moisture is present, as in a kitchen, the glass is often entirely covered with the white, feathery whorls of rime. This is quite distinct from window hoar, the whole area being white and cloudy.

Rime, so often confused with hoar, is not a sublimation product, but consists essentially of frozen mist or fog. Mist is simply an agglomeration of minute water droplets held in atmospheric suspension. Under freezing conditions they frequently exist in a super-cooled condition and are deposited on fixed objects where they coalesce into larger droplets and rapidly freeze. Microscopic examination and measurement provide evidence of this coalescence, for the frozen droplets are too large to be capable of atmospheric suspension. Hoar being frozen vapour and rime frozen water, the loose gossamer texture of the former and the more compact form of the latter are clearly accounted for.

Ice formation is an interesting subject. Water expands in freezing, 10 volumes of water producing 11 of ice. The specific gravity of fresh-water ice is approximately .92—about 10 times that of newly-fallen snow. The chief merit of autumn ploughing is attributable to this expansion, for every particle of water in the clod freezes and exerts its disruptive action. When the thaw arrives the soil becomes a porous, aerated mass (akin to pumice stone) which falls to powder as it dries.

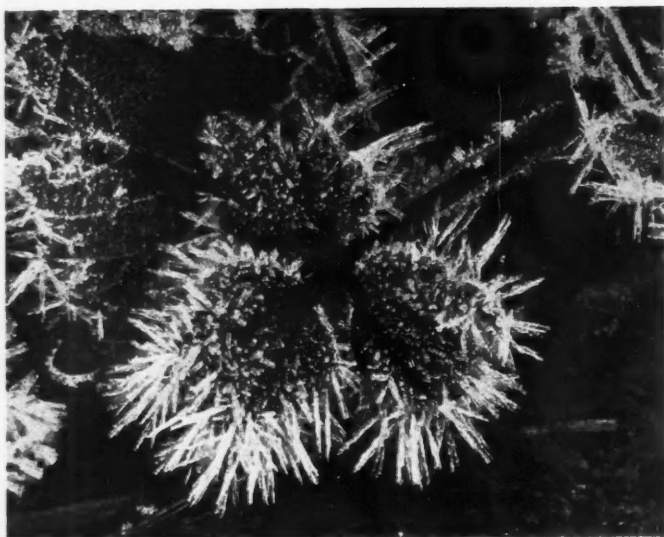
It is a well-known fact that water in cooling contracts until it reaches maximum density at 4° C.: between 4° C.



FROZEN WATER ON WILLOW BRANCHES



TWIGS GARLANDED WITH HOAR-FROST



FROST-COVERED BUTTERCUP LEAF—TWICE ITS NATURAL SIZE

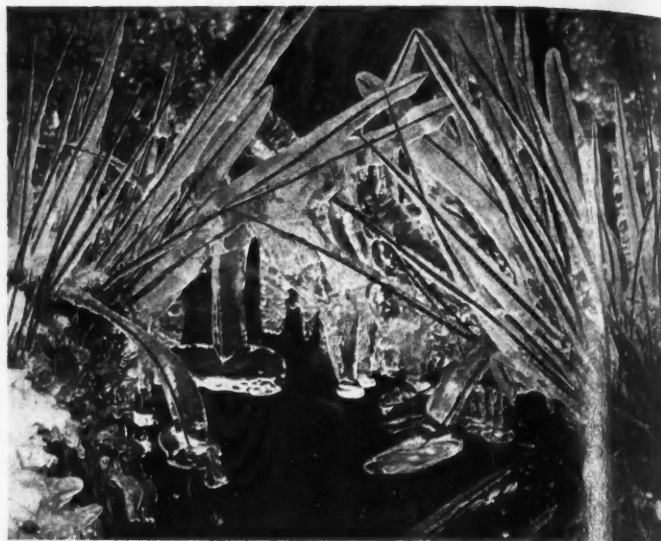
and freezing point it expands. This property determines the manner of freezing of a pond or lake—or indeed any kind of freezing. The surface layer of water, cooling through contact with cold air, becomes denser and sinks, the water thus being kept in constant circulation until the whole volume reaches the critical temperature, 4°C . Circulation then ceases, and the top layer, remaining static by virtue of expansion through cooling, drops from 4° to 0° and freezes, the process extending downwards as the cold persists.

The main body of water remains at 4°C , and no freezing will occur until it reaches this temperature. But for this inverted expansion range of 4° the entire volume of water would remain liquid until it reached 0°C , and would then freeze solid throughout.

Freezing is retarded by movement. Sluggish water freezes later than a calm pond of equal depth because it takes longer for the body of water to assume 4°C , owing to the inflow of fresh supplies. When this stage is reached spikes and tongues of ice radiate from the banks and from partly submerged rocks and extend until they meet and cover the surface. Such ice is usually very irregular, characterised by ripple marks, air pockets, ridges and undulations produced by eddies, currents and stresses.



ICE FORMING ON SLUGGISH WATER
Spikes of ice radiate from semi-submerged rocks



CRYSTAL "BRIDGES" FORMED BY ICE-COVERED RUSHES

In severe temperatures—zero and below—water in rapid movement will exist in a supercooled state, many degrees below freezing point. Surface freezing being impossible, frazil ice forms beneath the water, on the river bed and submerged rocks, developing upwards until all is solidified. A tinfal of such water will rapidly freeze solid.

Striking ice formations are found in the vicinity of waterfalls, owing to the effects of spray, splashing and lapping. Even a tiny cascade, in a hillside brook, will furnish enough spray to cover the adjacent herbage with heavy ice formations, in surprising abundance for so small a flow. As the spray impinges on grasses and rushes it freezes on impact, 15° - 25° of frost being most favourable for the process. By slow accretion these encrustations evolve, forming dainty crystal bridges where the rushes meet overhead.

Spray-formed ice is frequently opalescent owing to the imprisonment of innumerable, minute air bubbles, carried by the spray particles and frozen in before they can escape.

The æsthetic aspect of this subject is a story in itself. The general observer, viewing the winter scene, will be inspired by a sense of wonder, when reflecting upon the marvellous processes which convert water into such crystal beauty.



SPRAY-FORMED ICE HANGING FROM A RUSH LEAF—TWO AND A HALF TIMES MAGNIFIED

Imprisoned air bubbles give the ice an opalescent appearance



ENTRANCE TO A RABBIT BURROW. Cold air having fallen, an excess of vapour was provided for deposit on the herbage

HARD TIMES

By RICHARD PERRY

IN the opening days of December there were unusually hard white frosts on the saltings and lower reaches of the river: so hard that fieldfares were driven from the frozen fields to the softer tussocks of the saltmarsh.

The first evening was calm, but stormy-looking after showers of sleet. Over a sky of gun-metal grey and many shades of turbulent blue there was a lowering yellow gloom-light. Into the dun twilight streamed the gulls in the old, old way, flight after flight careening silently out to their massed roosts on the vast sand-banks of the estuary. Wild duck hurried down to their night's feeding on the marsh with swift, unseen, swishing wings.

It snowed hard all the next two days and the flushes on the marsh bore thin filaments of brown ice. The duck abandoned the frozen ponds of the hills and stayed all day on river or estuary. Snipe, always the first waders to be affected by hard weather, began to stand about under the mud-banks of creeks and drains. At midnight on the second day a huge copper-yellow moon hung low over the western edge of the marsh, flooding it with radiance. To listen to the contented humming of grey geese feeding in the moonlight is always an uncannily beautiful experience. The silken swishing of their grazing bills is a happy, soothing sound, and I was sorely tempted to go down the river: but the spirit was weak after long hours of writing, so I tumbled into bed instead—and ever regretted it.

At the darkening the next evening the west was a fiery orange and the pale blue wash above was pencilled with tenuous black lines and chevrons of duck and geese fighting over the estuary. The frozen corrugated sands were white with tiny flowered splinters of ice, with here and there tide-drifts of broken ice-floes, which gave out a hollow, bell-iron sound. The creeks were frozen too, and also the flushes on the marsh, whose thick tussocks were soft with hoar-frost, so that my water-boots sank deep into a yielding carpet, when I walked round the marsh at moonrise. From all about me came the deep grunting *ugh-ugh* of pinkfoot ganders and the *ga-a-ag* of their geese. There had been three thousand of them on the marsh during the day. Standing listening in the moonlight, straining to pick up from the vast silence the murmurous humming of grazing geese, I caught the soft clangour of two swans beating up the river.

Later that night snow fell heavily, and all the next morning, banking 12-ft. drifts on the passes over the hills. Snipe were probing in the creek on the green outside my house, stabbing vigorously up and down in the ooze to the hilts of their long bills, pacing slipperily over the frozen parts, pointing delicately at the ice with the swollen tips of their tweezer bills, or pausing to look steadily at me with their rather small black eyes. Silent peewits stood rigid, breast-deep in the snow, heads to wind, to the north, never stirring at my crunching passage down along the river bank. When I returned two or three hours later, after twice sinking waist deep in snow-filled creeks, they were still in the same positions, a little deeper in the snow.

Not even did the shy golden-eye duck lift from their pool of open water, to which unending thousands of gulls drifted down-stream in the late afternoon for bathe and congregation, before sailing on to their roosting places far down the estuary. To this pool came two immature wild swans, long and

straight of neck, whoopers from the frozen North.

There was a slight thaw the next day, but on the next the lain snow was frozen hard and the flats and the marsh were an Arctic voe. The broad inlets of the creeks bulged high with buckled ice-plates. Huge hummocks of ice littered the white sands. While over all the white flats, in the low afternoon sun, played a lovely ultra-violet glow, contrasting with the cold blue-white ice-sheets coating the smooth brown banks of the creeks and the strips of purplish thawed mud between two such ice-sheets. A curlew "bubbling" long and often set the beauty of the scene.

Packs of duck plashed in the pools opened by the bore, and two thousand pinkfeet and a score or two of grey lags cropped the brow-edges of the marsh thawed by the tide. Some hundreds of cushats were also attracted to this narrow strip of grass free from frost. At the darkening the kestrel's strident *hee-kee-kee* cut like glass over the frosty silence of the upper river below the high red cliffs.

By the middle of the month it was said to be the coldest weather for 45 years. Redwings with yellow plumes over their eyes and song-thrushes scattered the dead leaves furiously in their hunger, and peewits joined them on the wooded slopes of the river. After a high tide the foreshore and banks of the river were lumbered with small icebergs and thick floes

of frosted ice piled one upon another for miles up-stream. The flooded edges of the marsh were sheeted with ice, but duck continued to flight in good numbers at dusk. When I went down-river at 10 o'clock that night all was quiet except for the unexpected spring "tripling" of a golden plover. Two golden-eye were roosting in the lee of the river bank, and cawed harshly, at my passing. At that hour the new water in the creeks bore already a thin film of ice.

After an intense frost during the night the bore of next morning's spring tide carried with it a swift flow of pack-ice, filling the river from bank to bank, a hundred yards across. Curlews, waterhens and redshank companioned the thrushes and plover under the trees. When the bore flowed over the river-bank sudden snipe and woodcock came down to the flooded runnels. On this, the hardest day of all, a wren poured forth his cascade of song!

Then with the waning of the moon and going back of the tides, it thawed with unbelievable suddenness, flooding the marsh with colossal flushes, over which packs of gulls dipped whitely. Great gulls, young and old, with dazzling silver bellies, lined up on the higher, drier brow-edges, or prowled over the marsh in heavy, lazy flights, throwing far shadows ahead of me when they crossed the sun. Curlew swarmed smokily over the tide far out in the estuary. Grey geese were peacefully afloat. Hard times were over!



PINKFEET AT SUNSET: FROM THE OIL PAINTING BY PETER SCOTT

THREE CHRISTMAS AIMS

By S. P. B. MAIS

I AM accustomed to getting unexpected judgments from Public School boys in their essays, but I must confess that I was totally unprepared for the strong plea put forward by one of my form for a complete revision of our outlook on Christmas.

In his view we have now an excellent opportunity to call a halt to the habit of lavish exchange of presents and physical indulgence, and to concentrate more on the religious aspect of the festival.

"After all," he wrote, "we have as much reason to be thankful for the birth of our Lord as for his Resurrection and Ascension. We do not at Easter obscure the spiritual significance by feasting. Why should Christmas be allowed to degenerate into an excuse for orgy and revel?"

It is certainly true that laxity in church-going through the rest of the year has led to a lack of appreciation of the true meaning of Christmas, and, as parish priests have often pointed out, just as our joy in Easter depends on our proper observance of Lent, so our gratitude for the Nativity depends on our preparation for it in Advent. But who observes Advent? Certainly only a small minority.

Most of us undoubtedly need this reminder that the main function of Christmas is

the celebration of the Birth of the Prince of Peace, God made Man, with His assurance of ultimate goodwill among men, however far away that ideal may seem to be at present.

Whether we like it or not, the secular celebrations this year are bound to be less prodigal than ever before, with our Christmas fare unavoidably diminished and the exchange of presents restricted owing to the scarcity of goods of any sort in the shops.

As I see it, however, Christmas serves a three-fold purpose.

By far the most important is our worship of the Infant Christ, a simple act of faith, homage and thanksgiving like that performed by the shepherds and the Magi before the cradle in Bethlehem.

Springing from this worship of the Holy Child is the second function of Christmas, to provide a season of gaiety and merriment for all children.

Even if the world is at war it is still possible to enable children to enjoy Christmas as much as ever. Their pleasure in presents depends upon neither their quantity nor quality. Their enjoyment springs from the celebration of a ritual, taking part in carol-singing, decorating the house, hanging up stockings, a whole host of ceremonies that can still be carried on in spite of the war.

This brings me to the third function of Christmas. It is the season for the observance of a great number of customs that are not by any means all connected with Christianity, but are the expression of man's deepest instincts through the ages.

It is often assumed that Dickens was responsible for popularising our conception of a merry Christmas, and in some ways it may be true, but most of the ceremonies connected with it go back a very long way indeed.

It is true that the institution of the Christmas tree is only 100 years old so far as England is concerned, but turkey has been our Christmas fare for over 400 years, and Christmas puddings, a stiffened form of the earlier plum porridge, have been popular for nearly 300 years.

We are apt to accuse ourselves of gluttonous behaviour at Christmas, but the truth is that we are far more abstemious than our forefathers.

Think of the pie made in 1770 for Sir Henry Grey. It contained four geese, two turkeys, four wild duck, two rabbits, two curlew, seven blackbirds, six pigeons, four partridges, six snipe, two woodcock and two neats' tongues.

On a Christmas menu for a Bristol inn of the same period there were 150 items, including 39 different sorts of bird.

It is not the revival of prodigious meals that I wish to see, even if that were possible, though I hope that the Boar's Head festival, when boars' heads are again obtainable, will not be allowed to lapse, because this is a link with our very earliest ancestors.

The boar's flesh was the food of the heroes of Valhalla, and vows were taken on its head at the Yule-tide feast. So it is good that the ritual should be kept up, as it has been for at least 300 years at Queen's College, Oxford, with its accompanying ancient Boar's Head carol.

Even if we cannot all hold a boar's head supper, we can throw on the fire a Yuletide log to remind ourselves that this season was in pagan times a Sun Festival, celebrated by the Norsemen with ritual games and dancing to commemorate the return of lengthening days and the promise of spring.

That is why, all through the ages, houses have been decorated with ivy, yew, rosemary, holly and mistletoe (the Romans celebrated their Saturnalia by hanging laurel and evergreens on their walls), though why it is considered unlucky to keep these decorations up after Twelfth Night I have never been able to discover.

Even Santa Claus has a link with pagan times, because the god Woden rewarded those who honoured him at Yuletide by riding through the sky to bring gifts in the darkness, so when the worship of Woden was forbidden, the converts to Christianity simply transferred his legend to the patron saint of children, the generous-hearted St. Nicholas.

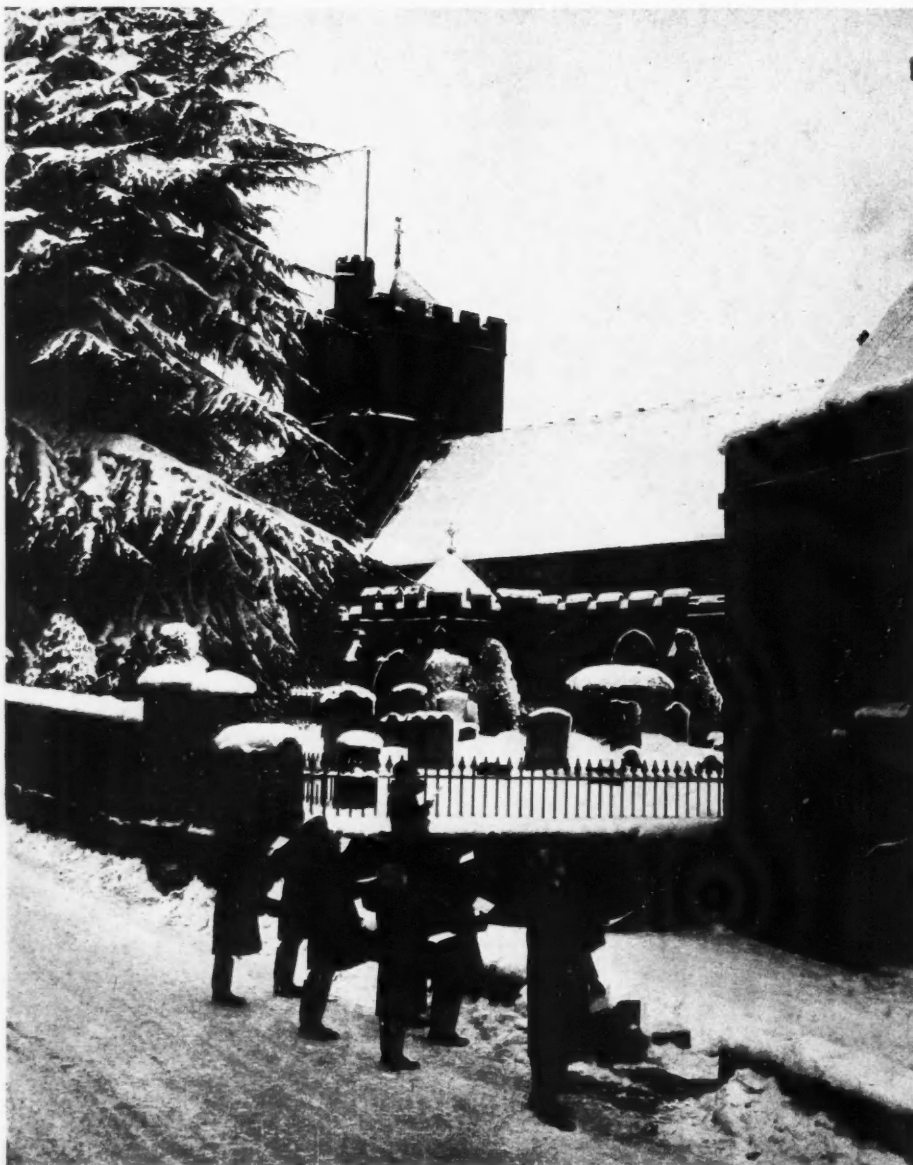
The most interesting pagan survival that I have seen, and I have seen it often in many parts of the country, is the Mummers' play.

Nearly every English village used to have its troupe of mummers ("Guisers" was the name they went by in Derbyshire), who dressed up in the most grotesque manner possible, with hideous masks and horns, and went round the cottages acting.

Their play was in doggerel, and compered by a "letter-in," usually Father Christmas. He introduced St. George, who was challenged first by a Bold Slasher, then by a clown called Beelzebub, and finally by a Dragon, killing in turn all three.

At the end of each bout a Doctor appeared to revive the slain victim with pills or a draught, and the suggestion is that the conquered trio represented the corn spirit dying in the seed to rise again as corn, and that the Doctor represented the priest whose power was necessary to make the seed grow.

The Mummers' play has been acted in



THE FIRST AIM OF CHRISTMAS IS . . . "A SIMPLE ACT OF FAITH, HOMAGE AND THANKSGIVING"

one part of England or another every Christmas for at least 800 years, and is the only example of pre-Reformation folk drama extant.

The last time I saw it was in Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, performed by a cast of working men who could certainly neither read nor write, yet they knew their patter perfectly and acted with astonishing vigour.

The costumes vary from place to place. Sometimes the Mummers are content just to black their faces and put on khaki or other uniform. In Longparish, Hampshire, they sew on large paper garlands of every colour to their coats and trousers, and wear an unwieldy tall headdress of an enormous wreath with long streamers that entirely hide their faces. At Overton, in the same county, similar streamers are worn, but the headdress is in the shape of a very large mitre. They look more like African witch-doctors than English villagers, and their strange antics make the likeness even more striking.

* * *

Mummers are no more obsolete than wassailers, but it is curious to see how much more tenacious is the hold of these old customs in some counties than in others.

In Devon and Somerset, for instance, it is still quite usual to find bands of men going out into the orchards by night at Christmas-time or Twelfth Night to fire their guns through the branches, pour cider round the roots of the trees, place pieces of cake soaked in cider in the forks of the trees, and then sing some variant of the traditional wassailing song:

*Here's to thee, old apple tree,
Whence thou mayst bud, and whence thou mayst blow,
Whence thou mayst bear apples enow!
Hats full! Caps full!
Three score bushels full!
And my pockets full too!
Huzza! Huzza! Huzza!*

At Kingscote in Gloucestershire one of the wassailers used to wear a sack and had his head thrust into the hollowed-out head of a bull.

Wassailing and mumming are relatively common Christmas customs. The strangest I ever heard of is the Hood game played at Haxey in Lincolnshire.

The players, who are known as Boggons, wear something scarlet in their shirts and flower-bedecked hats. The hood consists of 12 pieces of tightly rolled canvas and a thirteenth roll of leather. The Boggons are led by a King Boggon, who carries a bundle of 13



THE SECOND AIM IS "TO PROVIDE A SEASON OF GAIETY FOR ALL CHILDREN"

hood is successfully brought into one of the three local inns.

* * *

One great advantage of preserving these customs is that they help to foster local pride. They also provide excitement, entertainment and gaiety. The "guisers," with their ridiculous disguises and comic antics, are a source of great merriment both to themselves and all their friends.

When I look back on the Christmases of my youth, what I recall with most pleasure is not the food or the presents, but going out with the "guisers," the village band, and the carol singers on the nights before Christmas, being entertained in the cottages after our performances, hanging up my stocking on Christmas Eve, going round with my father to dispense the Christmas charities, the hymns in church on Christmas morning, and singing carols in the cottages again on Christmas night.

All these things are as practicable in war-time as in peace-time, and what I would urge, in addition to the very sensible suggestion of the small boy that we should not forget to keep Christmas as a holy day, is that we should also keep up those ancient customs that tend to make Christmas merry.



THE THIRD AIM IS "THE OBSERVANCE OF CUSTOMS THAT ARE THE EXPRESSION OF MAN'S DEEPEST INSTINCTS THROUGH THE AGES." The Overton Mummers in the Hampshire village of Freefolk

willows, and with them goes a Fool, with blackened face and streamers down his back, to a stone outside the church, where he recites the story of a 13th-century lady who lost her scarlet hood in a gale but had it recovered by 12 labourers. As a reward she decided that a hood should be fought for by 12 men every succeeding Christmas Day.

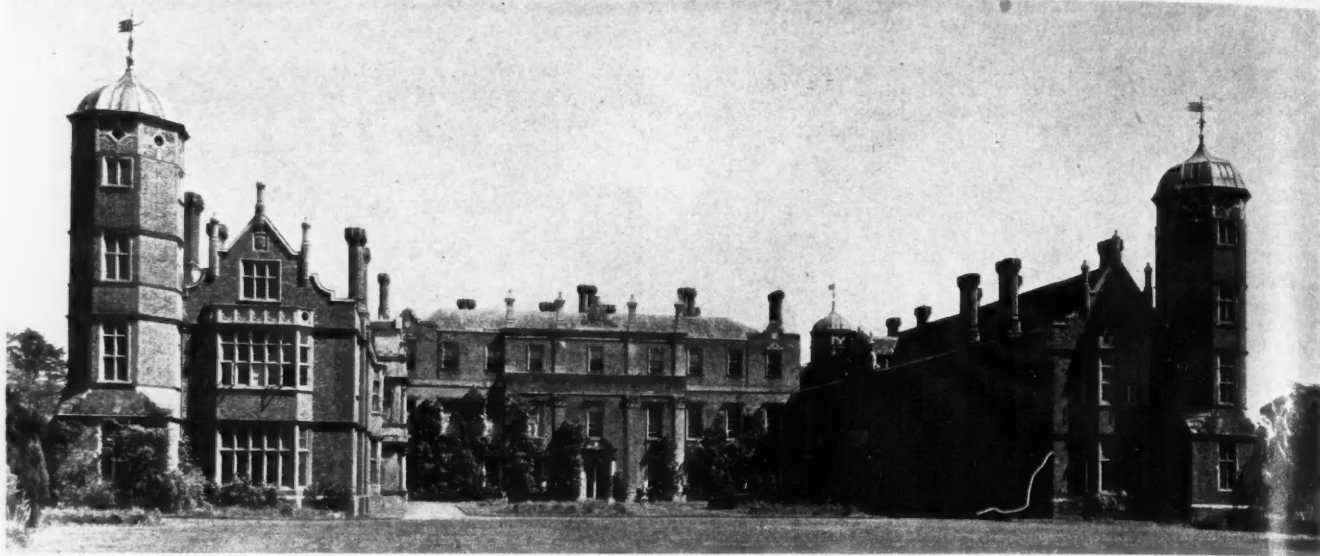
While the Fool tells his story his streamers are set alight and a paper bonfire is lit at his feet. After the smoking of the Fool the Boggons go to a common, and stand at various points of a large circle, in the centre of which stands the King with the villagers.

He then throws one of the rolls of canvas; the men round him rush after it, and whoever gets it tries to carry it beyond the circle of waiting Boggons. If he succeeds, that hood is out of the game. If he fails it has to be thrown again.

Last of all the leather hood is thrown, the circle closes in, and the game ends when the



THE MUMMERS' "DISGUISE"



1.—COBHAM HALL. THE ELIZABETHAN WINGS OF TAWNY BRICK AND THE "INIGO JONES" FRONT

COBHAM, KENT—I

The great house of the mediæval and Tudor Lords Cobham, re-built 1580-1600, introduces the reader to an English village notable in life, letters and beauty

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

"**R**EALLY," said Mr. Pickwick, "for a misanthrope's choice, this is one of the prettiest and most desirable places of residence I ever met with." In search of Mr. Tupman, withdrawn from the world and Miss Wardle to the obscurity of *The Leather Bottle* at Cobham, the friends had walked that June afternoon from Rochester, across the park and past the Hall "displaying the quaint and picturesque architecture of Elizabeth's time," where

"long vistas of stately oak and elm trees appeared on every side and large herds of deer were cropping the fresh grass." When they reached the village it was, probably, the venerable atmosphere, the noble church and ancient college, that inclined Mr. Pickwick to those antiquarian researches which led him, in Cobham's very street, to make his discovery of the world-famous inscribed stone. Indeed, for its antiquity (the stone, if not the inscription) there is much more evidence than is generally supposed.

Dickens, from where he lived on the further edge of the park at Gadshill, well knew this romantic approach to Cobham by the long stately avenue leading from the old Watling Street to Lord Darnley's ancestral seat. But the great beauty of the famous Hall—so inadequately expressed in Dickens's hackneyed words—and the historical predominance of its lords since crusading times, tend, from that direction, to overshadow the peculiar interest of the village. True, that owes much to the lords of Cobham, as is acknowledged by the marvellous array of their brasses paving the church chancel, the exquisite alabaster tomb before its altar, and the grey quadrangle of the College they founded. But,

contrasting with the fluctuating fortunes of the Hall and its successive owners, has flowed continuously the more even tenor of yeomen's and villagers' lives among the cherry orchards and fertile arable of these chalk uplands. They, too, like Bill Stumps, have left their mark. Happily, one of them, Mr. Richard Hayes of Owletts, kept a diary in the middle of the eighteenth century, which helps to fill in the picture of this Kentish community through the centuries, outlined by the buildings of his fellows and predecessors and by the annals of the lords of the manor. The Hayes family also for a time owned Meadow House, on the west edge of the village (Fig. 11), and Owletts, which we shall visit on our round, has come by inheritance to Sir Herbert Baker. He has allowed me, for the purpose of these articles, to have recourse to the description of Cobham given in his memoirs, *Buildings and Personalities*, shortly to be published by Country Life. Yet another source, a man who knew it well in Georgian times, is Edward Hasted, the great historian of Kent, living a few miles away in Sutton at Hone.

Hasted, like old Mr. Hayes and Sir Herbert Baker, and indeed the passenger arriving at Sole Street station, received a less picturesque impression of the place than Dickens. "Rather unfrequented," he says of it. "A healthy and rather a pleasant situation, tho' the woods and foliage of Cobham-park give it in general a gloomy appearance." Old Hasted deprecated enthusiasm. Cobham stands, in fact, on the downland plateau between the Thames and Medway, some three miles from each river and five from their confluence at Rochester, where the Norman castle guarded the Roman road's crossing of the Medway. Thus it lies just between two highways of history: the old ridgeway remembered as the Pilgrims' Way follows the southern escarpment of the downs, and Watling Street skirts the north edge of the parish.

"Kipling's Puck," says Sir Herbert Baker, "could evoke many spirits of Cobham's early 'ancestry.' Near our house a lane called Battle Street leads to the site of a



2.—THE GREAT ELM AVENUE IN COBHAM PARK

tumulus, called the Warrior's Grave; it may have been similar to Coldrum and Kits Coty House (on the Pilgrims' Way). But many of its huge sarsen stones were removed to Cobham Hall to make a Merlin's Grotto when artificial landscape gardening was the mode, and Hayes records in his diary that he also robbed the tomb, widening the lane for his wagon team, and set up some of the stones outside his house and farm-yard, where they now are. Smaller stones are outside the Leather Bottle"—so Mr. Pickwick was not so grossly misled as to their antiquity as the contemptible Blotton pretended. In a sunken stretch of Watling Street three wagon-loads of bronze weapons were found long since, giving some clue to the name "Battle Street."

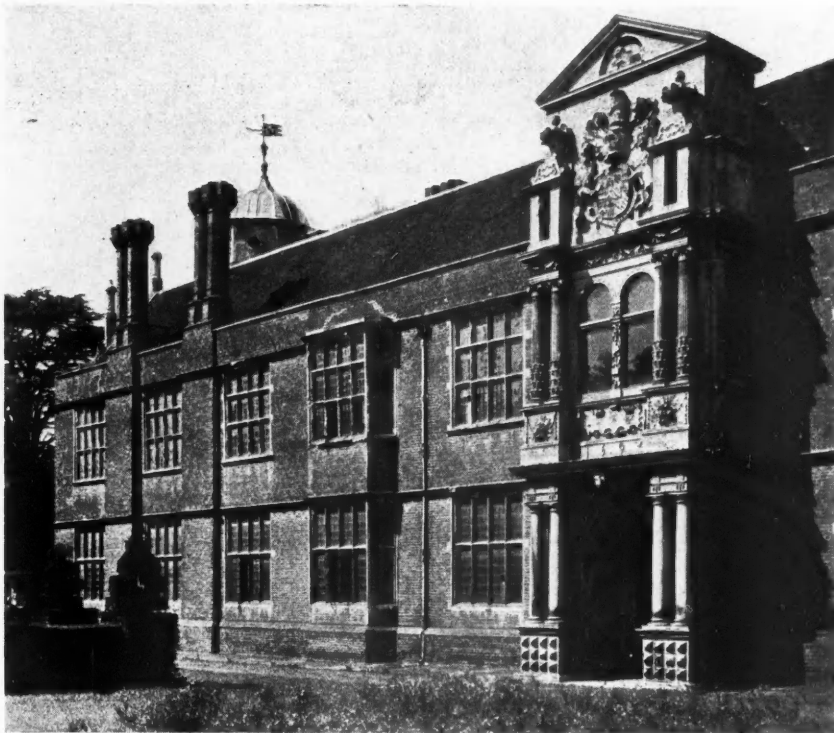
This high land between the rivers must, indeed, have always been of strategic importance, overlooking the Medway bridgehead and the tidal creeks, the "fleets," among the marshes of the Thames. The position no doubt accounted partly for the importance of Cobham Hall and its owners, who were Constables of Dover and Rochester Castles, Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports, and, in one case, the part-builder of Rochester Bridge in Richard II's time. It was, Sir Herbert Baker suggests, very likely because John de Cobham and Robert Knolles were then re-building the bridge that, when Froissart met King Richard at Canterbury on his journey to London, the royal party came, not by Cobham, but by Leeds Castle and Eltham, crossing the Medway higher up at Aylesford. But Chaucer's pilgrims from the Tabard would have followed the Roman road past Cobham, where there is still a "Beckett's Well." But it was through Gravesend and closer to the Thames that the Elizabethan highway passed, dropping to the Medway over Gadshill where Falstaff fought his "men in buckram."

In so far as "Sir John Falstaff," in the play of *Henry IV*, was substituted by Shakespeare, at the insistence of the then

Lord Cobham, for the name "Sir John Oldcastle" (which had figured in the original version), Cobham Hall can be regarded as having for a time been Falstaff's home. The Herefordshire knight Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham in right of his wife, was indeed a boyhood's friend of Henry V, but a character as unlike Falstaff as stone from clay, being, as a leader of the Lollards, one of the first

Protestant martyrs. It is notable that two of the greatest figures in English literature, Falstaff and Pickwick, should both be associated with Cobham.

The mediæval lords have no connection with the present Hall; their shrines are the church and College. The re-building of the Hall was begun by the 10th Lord Cobham about 1580, son of the Lord Cobham who



3.—PORCH, DATED 1593, OF THE NORTH WING, COBHAM HALL

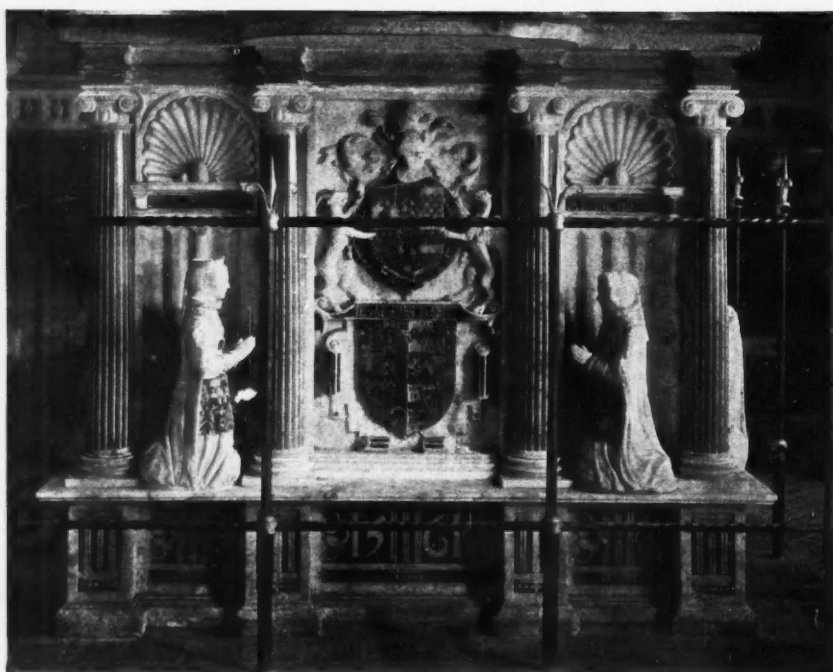


4.—CENTRE AND ENTRANCE OF THE SOUTH WING.

The sculptor and probably the architect of these features, derived from the French architect Philibert de l'Orme, was Giles de Witt.



5.—THE NORTH PORCH ENTRANCE



weathered the storm of the Reformation and is commemorated by the superb altar tomb in the church. The building was interrupted by the Spanish Armada; but in 1591 it was again possible to ship 200 tons of stone from the Caen quarries under the special permission of Henri Quatre. Another interesting item from the building accounts gives the name of the sculptor of the remarkable Renaissance decoration about the building as Giles de Witt, evidently a Fleming or a Dutchman. Work was still going on in 1599, and it is not certain that it was finished when the last miserable Brooke, Lord Cobham, was imprisoned for life for his complicity in the Main Plot against the new Scottish King in 1603, not only forfeiting his own honours but implicating Sir Walter Raleigh. The reversion of the Hall was given by James to his cousin Ludovic Stuart, Duke of Lennox, ancestor of the Earls of Darnley. But till her death in 1628 Cobham's widow, who took no notice of her husband after his trial, lived on in solitary state in the Hall.

We cannot, in this wayward progress about the village, go into the architectural problems presented by the building of the Hall (which, like so many others of its kind, is in any case not accessible in war-time). But the notable interest in Renaissance art on the part of the 10th Lord Cobham, evidenced by its sculptured porches, has a certain bearing on the mystery of the tomb that he erected to his father—one of the noblest works of Renaissance sculpture in England. This is dated 1561, in the inlaid marble base at its east end. The body of the tomb is supported on Ionic columns, their shafts inlaid with grey marble, between which kneel his ten sons and four daughters in scalloped niches inscribed in the friezes with the kneeling figures' names. Each figure's surcoat is emblazoned in full colour with his or her armorial bearings, as are those of the life-size effigies reclining above and the shields at either end. Many of the small figures have 45 quarterings, a number partly accounted for by Lady Cobham having been the coheirress of John Lord Braye. The method of coloration is peculiar: the alabaster has first been incised, then filled in with a resinous composition which was then coloured, a species of gesso. The effect of the whole is of rich mellow colouring and extraordinary delicacy of sculpture, in some cases of no little beauty—notably the two ladies kneeling at the east end, and the majestic heads of the principal figures.

The problem of its authorship is complicated by the restorations applied in 1840 and 1865, the extent of which is uncertain. In 1782 the tomb was described as "miserably shattered and defaced by a huge beam falling on it many years since." In 1840 Mr. Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A., described it as "sadly defaced" but having had "all its fragments carefully put together, and the general features, lost by the destruction of the columns, restored in plaster of paris." Some 25 years later a more complete restoration was effected when "no part of the old work has been tampered with, and every part of the new work is given from fragments carefully preserved in the repairs of 1840." It is thus probable that the heads, features, hands, etc., are restorations; and apparently the columns. But the general character and decorative detail appears to follow.

(Left, top) 6.—GEORGE 9TH LORD COBHAM AND ANNE HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF LORD BRAYE

(Centre) 7.—"ONE OF THE NOBLEST WORKS OF RENAISSANCE SCULPTURE IN ENGLAND"

The tomb of George Lord Cobham, 1561, in Cobham Church

(Bottom) 8.—RESPLENDENT IN HERALDIC COLOUR AND RENAISSANCE SCULPTURE

The east end of the Cobham monument

if it is not, the original. Was there any native designer or sculptor, so far emancipated in 1561 from Gothic idiom or who had so far absorbed Renaissance feeling, capable of executing such work? The lovely scallop heads to the niches, the nice proportioning of their inscribed friezes, and the classic architectural inlay give sure evidence of first-hand acquaintance with Renaissance Italy, if not of an Italian hand.

No Italian sculptor is known to have been in England between 1558, the year George 9th Lord Cobham died, and the date on the monument. Probably the only Englishman at that date with the requisite accomplishment was the mysterious John Shute, painter, stainer and architect, "servant unto the Rt. Hon. Duke of Northumberland," who about 1550 despatched Shute to Italy to study and confer with "the doings of the skilful masters in architecture": the results of which visit Shute published in 1563 as *The First and Chief Grounds of Architecture*. No work by Shute has been identified, although his epitaph referred to "workes at large set forth." Is it possible that we have here one for which he was in some degree responsible? There are two points supporting the possibility. On Shute's return to England the Duke of Northumberland showed his portfolio of drawings of sculpture, paintings and architecture to Edward VI. Soon afterwards the Duke proclaimed Lady Jane Grey as Queen—a *démarche* in which Lord Cobham was implicated (and was imprisoned therefore by Queen Mary, for some months), suggesting that Lord Cobham and Shute's patron were well acquainted. The second point is the amount of painter-stainer's work in the monument.



9.—THE LEATHER BOTTLE, COBHAM

A reference to Shute by Haydocke (1583) as practised in limning and in the mixture of gums with colours (though this seems primarily to refer to painting in miniature) may have a bearing on the tomb's exceptional coloration in the "resinous" medium already noted.

But the most that can be deduced with certainty from Hall and tomb is that the 10th Lord Cobham was in touch, somewhat before his time, with the Renaissance architecture of the Continent, to the extent of sending to the Low Countries, and possibly to Italy, for sculptors. The tradition that the Duke of Lennox employed

Inigo Jones to design the re-building of the central part of the Hall about 1640, which would further testify to Cobham's progressive part in architectural advancement, cannot be supported. The entablature of the front is dated 1667, when the Hall had descended to the 5th Duke of Lennox and Richmond, who in that year had married Charles II's *inamorata* "la Belle Stuart" and been created Lord Cobham. The attribution to Inigo Jones probably arose from the existence of a design among those at Worcester College by Webb entitled "Purfyle of ye Duke's Palace, Cobham, 1648."

(To be continued)



10, 11.—YEOMEN'S HOMES: (Left) IN THE VILLAGE STREET, DATED 1712. (Right) MEADOW HOUSE, BUILT IN 1770

COLLECTORS' QUESTIONS

A QUILTED COT COVER

THE cot cover, of the corner of which I send you a photograph, has been in my family for some 200 years. I should be very much interested if you could tell me whether or no it is, as I always thought, quilting or some other kind of work. If it is quilting it is almost impossibly fine work, and it is not very easy to see that there are two layers of material. The whole centre is occupied with a repeated design. The cover measures roughly 45 ins. by 60 ins. It is very light in weight. Is there any significance in the particular design?—A.M.L., Lewes, Sussex.

The cot cover is a good example of quilting in which relief is obtained by stitching upon a stuff which has padding or fine cords of soft padding, probably the former in your example. Coverlets and bed-hangings and portions of costume were worked in this manner. There is no special significance in the design, but the bird in the cartouche is adapted from the "exotic birds" familiar in Chinese art.

A SKETCH BY AN 18th-CENTURY VENETIAN PAINTER

I venture to send you the enclosed photograph of an oil painting (sight measurements 3 ft. by 2 ft. 3 ins.) which I bought in Chester before the last war and had cleaned after the war.

It is inscribed on the frame *Adoration of the Lamb a la Caravaggio*, and is presumably by Polidoro Caldara, whose works and friezes appear in the Vatican. This may have been an advance study for some large work—but where? Can you help me? Is a catalogue of Vatican pictures to be seen in London?—T. WARD (Brig.-Gen.), Brynhrir, Criccieth.

The attribution to Polidoro Caldara, known as Caravaggio, seems doubtful. He worked in the Vatican under Raphael, but the style of the

sketch is baroque and suggests a much later artist. Polidoro's surviving works are chiefly landscape decorations. He specialised in fresco decorations on the façades of palaces and churches. No trace of these remains in Rome. After the sack of 1527 he went to Naples and later to Messina, where he met a violent death in 1543. The best account of *Roman Baroque Painting* is by E. K. Waterhouse, but there is no illustration resembling the present sketch. The subject appears to be unusual for the period. Emile Mâle in his detailed study of iconography *L'Art Religieux après le Concile de Trente* (1932) makes no mention of the *Adoration of the Lamb*. The sketch is more likely to be by a Venetian painter of the later eighteenth century working under the influence of G. B. Tiepolo, to whose style there is a strong resemblance. But it is difficult to tell from so small a reproduction.

FRENCH IMPERIAL RINGS

Some 25 years ago I purchased in a London sale-room a lot containing various articles, chiefly of very little importance, except one which I coveted. Among the articles was a black discoloured ring of the wedding-ring type. I took this to be manufactured of brass or copper. However, I decided to clean it, which gave me quite a

lot of trouble, as it was smeared with some black tarry substance. However, when I had succeeded I found it to be made of pure gold and bearing the inscription inside: *Napoleon III 1854—Emperor. As Napoleon was married to Eugenie de Montijo in January, 1853, could you kindly suggest how this could come about? If it had not been a wedding-ring, it could, of course, be classified as an ordinary souvenir kind.*—H. J. HANSON, Woodstock, Bexley, Kent.

Rings of this type are neither wedding-rings nor souvenir rings in the accepted sense. They occur with various dates, invariably, so far as our experience goes, associated with outstanding events in the history of the Second Empire, in this instance with the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War. We believe a few are known engraved with the name Napoleon only, with dates earlier than 1852. These belong to the period when the future Emperor was a



ADORATION OF THE LAMB

See Question: A Sketch by an 18th-century Venetian Painter

Pretender in exile, a prisoner in Ham, or President of the Republic. They were worn as a Gallic gesture of loyalty to the Empire and to the house of Bonaparte, and after the fall of the Second Empire in 1870 they continued to be worn by Bonapartists as an expression of hope for the Emperor's return, in the same way that rings and other trinkets decorated with the emblem of the violet were carried by those who after 1814 and 1815 believed in *Le retour du Violet et du Printemps*. After 1870 these rings were frequently enamelled or painted black in mourning for the Cause and to disguise their character, since under the Commune they were nearly as dangerous to their wearers as the *tabatières au petit chapeau* had been to their users in the days of the restored Bourbon monarchy.

HORSE BRASSES IN LEAD

I have some horse brasses made from lead or pewter. Will you kindly say if this is unusual?—WILLIAM FRANCIS, 84, Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey.

Horse brasses made of lead or pewter are certainly unusual. They were doubtless of very early make. The first brasses were made of bronze; then lead was used—sometimes coated with thin brass, or even silver. They were always hand-hammered, and slight marks of the tool used can frequently be detected, although use and constant polishing naturally wore such marks away. They are becoming increasingly rare. If the brasses were made of pewter, it is probable that they were of Scottish manufacture, as brass was very hard to procure in Scotland, and the design—if any—is important. Many of the Scottish designs were very simple, stars and circles, or "eyes," and many had a rough heart design, sometimes what was intended to be a thistle or an ivy leaf. If perfectly plain, they were quite the earliest made, and rude designs may be traced on some, made with some sharp instrument, or nail. They will probably weigh three ounces, if really old. Look at the edges, and note how the "stud-hole" is punched; early ones are quite uneven. If these and the edges have been worked down by some rough tool, this is a definite sign of age.

AN EMBROIDERED MAP

I have just come across an embroidered map, or sampler, of England and Wales. It is described as "England and Wales by Wat." Its dimensions are 17 ins. by 13½ ins., and it was originally worked in colours, which are now very faded, on a thin linen base.

The only clues I can give to estimate its age are the spelling of the place-names, the fact that the County of London is not shown as distinct



A CORNER OF A QUILTED COT COVER WITH EXOTIC BIRD COPIED FROM CHINESE ORIGINAL

See Question: A Quilted Cot Cover



AN ORIENTAL TEAPOT

See Question: Lowestoft or Oriental?

from Middlesex, and that Lyme Regis is shown to be in Devon and not Dorset. Surrey is spelt Surry, and other names are spelt as follows on the map: Lime Regis, Aberystwith, and Blanford.

The map is in a dirty and moth-eaten condition, and I am wondering if you could suggest its age.—G. TURBERVILLE COMLEY, Sunningdale, West Drive, Porthcawl, Glamorganshire.

The details given point to the original map being an engraving by William Watts, who produced two well-known collections entitled *The Seats of the Nobility and Gentry in a Collection of the most interesting and picturesque Views*, engraved by W. Watts. 84 pl. (1779-86) obl 8vo., and *A Collection of Select Views of London and Westminster*, engraved by W. Watts (1800) 4to. Obviously the map in question does not come from either; it may be in a County History or some other volume, and its exact source would be difficult to trace, as engravers were freely employed, and only now and then produced works on their own such as these volumes.

Maps were frequently worked as a more advanced form of sampler by 18th-century schoolgirls. Surrey was spelt without the "e" till about 1800, so that the dates suit this W. Watts; 1780-1800 is a fair guess. The County of London, by the way, only came into existence in 1888, so the absence of any distinction between it and Middlesex in this map is hardly surprising.

THE ORIGIN OF THE TALLBOY

Old furniture is considered to be of good functional design, but in the case of a tallboy chest which I own the three top drawers are too high to see into. I enclose a photograph. Surely this is a bad feature of design. I should be interested to have your opinion. Also, when were tallboy chests first made in England.—R. PALUMBO, 9, Culross Street, W.1.

It is true that the person of average height is unable to look into the top drawers of a tallboy, but there is no need to do so; for the tallboy was always designed with two or three small drawers at the top and not one long drawer, so as to allow these smaller and lighter drawers to be easily taken out and laid on the bed or a table to put in or remove from them what was required, and then the drawers were replaced. That this was the customary treatment for the small top drawers of tallboys is evident; for if one closely examines the upper edge and surface of the rail and the front of the long drawer immediately below, they will be seen to have a number of dents caused through the back of the small drawer bumping against the wood as it was replaced in the carcass. No such dents appear however below a long drawer.

Tallboys from their design would appear to have been first made in England in the early years of the eighteenth century. They were evolved from the late 17th-century chest on

stand, which proved an unsatisfactory piece of furniture owing to the drawers when fully laden becoming too heavy for the stand and causing it to break. Therefore, perhaps after numerous complaints from his customers, the English cabinet-maker amended the design and the tallboy on low strong bracket feet began to be made first in walnut and later in mahogany.

LOWESTOFT OR ORIENTAL?

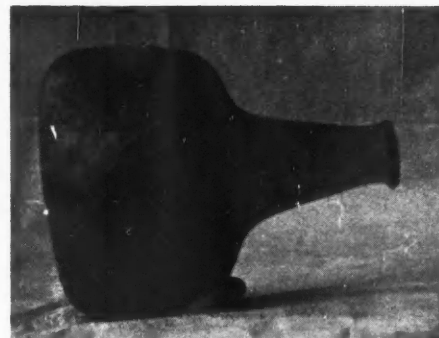
A small teapot which I inherited from my grandmother has always been classed as Lowestoft; recently some doubts have been raised about it and I should be very grateful for your valuable opinion. It is made of heavy china, glazed, with Japanese pictures of figures in pale blue and red on a white ground, and a lot of gold scrolling. Under the spout and handle are pictures in pink, over them a small picture in pale black surmounted by a gold scroll.—M. SETH-SMITH, Guildford, Surrey.

The teapot is not of Lowestoft china but Oriental. It belongs to the class of porcelain made in China specially for export to Europe, through the agency of the various East India companies, in shapes which vary to suit the requirements of the country of destination. The shape in this case is commonly found in teapots made about the middle of the eighteenth century for the English market, and the pattern—a group of Chinese figures among furniture—was copied in the early days of the English factories, particularly at Worcester. In former times, owing to a strange misconception, it was supposed that china of this kind, particularly if decorated with English coats of arms, was made at Lowestoft; but discoveries made in 1902 in the old buildings of the Lowestoft factory finally dispelled this error, proving that the true Lowestoft porcelain—which can now be readily identified and is by no means uncommon—is, like most early English porcelain, a soft paste artificial porcelain, quite different in character from the hard porcelain of China. The old misconception gained some support from the fact that a Chinese teapot (now in the Victoria and Albert Museum, in the Schreiber Collection), painted in China with the Crucifixion after a European engraving, is marked underneath, in red over the glaze,



MAHOGANY TALLBOY CIRCA 1760

See Question: The Origin of the Tallboy



18th-CENTURY WINE FLAGON

See Question: Old Wine Flagon

Allen Lowestoft. Robert Allen was an enameller at the Lowestoft factory and one time its proprietor, and it is likely that he once owned the teapot and put his name on it.

OLD WINE FLAGON

I am sending a photograph of a wine flagon unearthed in my garden. A local expert says it is Flemish fourteenth century, but the Victoria and Albert say (from photograph only) English seventeenth or eighteenth century.

The flagon is glass, covered with a kind of multicoloured marl enamel (unless this is corrosion), very smooth.—F. FATTORINI (Capt.), Waysmeet, Skipton-in-Craven.

The Victoria and Albert Museum dating is certainly correct. Glass immersed in damp soil in most instances acquires an opalescent patina, of considerable beauty, in the course of a relatively short time, so it cannot be taken as indicating age. It is a normal wine-bottle of the period.

THE MONKEY BAND

My wife has bought a set of nine figures reputed to be a copy by Samson of Paris of a set of Worcester figures bearing the title *The Monkey Band*. She was told that the originals made a big price when sold not long ago.

The mark on this copy is roughly like a pair of scissors, which she was told is Samson's mark.

Would you be good enough to let me know: What was the history of the original "Monkey Band"? When was the set made? Are they caricatures of any famous persons? Is the firm of Samson of Paris well known and of any repute? —N. J. HODGKINSON, The Thatched House, Worlington, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

A set of figures representing monkeys apeing an orchestra was first made at the Royal Saxon Porcelain Factory at Meissen in 1747, from models by J. J. Kaendler, in ridicule either of the Court Orchestra or of that of Count Brühl. Some of them were copied about 1755 at Chelsea, and later at Derby, but not at Worcester. The firm of Samson of Paris has been in existence for more than half a century making clever copies of old porcelain, often unmarked, but when a mark has been employed a small letter S has generally been introduced in some form: the mark copied in our correspondent's letter is probably that of one of the many factories in Saxony, Thuringia and elsewhere in Germany making reproductions of old Meissen porcelain.

Questions intended for these pages should be forwarded to the Editor, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, W.C.2, and a stamped addressed envelope enclosed for reply. In no case should originals be sent; nor can any valuation be made.

TRACKING ON A ROUGH SHOOT

By RICHARD CLAPHAM

ON a rough shoot, particularly of the hill variety, where the acreage may be large but the stock of game small, tracking often helps to fill the bag, and enables one to get on terms with vermin.

For the most part you work single-handed, pitting your wits against the natural cunning of your quarry. Thus the greater your knowledge of woodcraft, which includes tracking, the better chance you have of success.

On my own hill ground, for example, where grouse and blackgame form the chief attraction, wild pheasants are scarce and you might try for a day without flushing one. After a snowfall, however, there may be a different tale to tell. Quite unexpectedly you come across the unmistakable tracks, each imprint directly in line with another.

So far so good. The rest may not prove quite so easy. A cock pheasant on foot covers a surprising area of ground in his wanderings, and it is not the simplest job in the world to track him up and get a shot. If the tracks are very fresh he may not be so far away, but perhaps you get to the end of the trail only to find from the marks in the snow that he has taken wing and departed into Naboth's Vineyard.

On the other hand you may get fairly close, and then he may fool you if the ground is rough and broken, for he will lie doggo or run like the devil, as he thinks the occasion demands.

This refers to birds which haunt the fellsides where clumps of juniper or tree-studded ghylls afford the only cover. Given a companion who knows the ground, you can sometimes play into each other's hands. Should the tracks lead into a ghyll, for instance, one gun can follow

them, while the other takes up a position that covers the bird's probable line of escape.

Perhaps in your travels through the woods you may come across the neat round footprints of a poaching cat. The latter has its regular runways, and if you follow the trail you will sooner or later discover where to set a trap so that it will do the most good. There is no worse poacher than the domestic feline which has reverted to the wild.

Here let me quash a fallacy. It is popularly supposed that a cat hates wet. Nothing of the kind. A few evenings ago, for example, I watched a cat hunting on the edge of a cornfield. It was raining hard, but the cat appeared quite unperturbed. Rain, or long wet grass, holds no terrors for a confirmed feline poacher.

Possibly you strike the neat paired footprints of a stoat. Follow them and you may find where the animal has run along the bottom of a stone wall for some distance. If the tracks are very fresh you may glimpse him and be able to "squeak" him so that he affords a shot. Stoats are full of curiosity.

On any fine winter's day you can find squirrel tracks in snow, and if you are bothered by those "tree rats," the greys, you may be able to thin some of them out.

On hill ground brown hares are not always easy to find. After a snowfall, however, you are pretty sure to come across tracks. It is not as easy as you might think to track a hare to its form and get a shot as it leaves it, especially if the tracks lead up-hill and the animal is lying where it can view the ground below. The tendency is for you to keep your eyes on the trail, whereas you should constantly look ahead, merely glancing at the tracks out of the corner of your eye. As sure as fate if you keep your eyes on the ground the

hare will slip away and fool you. In this sort of work the actual shot is nothing; it is the tracking that proves so interesting.

Now and then you get a surprise. A season or two ago, when crossing the fell I came on the footprints of a pine-marten, one of our rarest wild animals. The tracks ran down-hill towards the woods, but before I reached there the snow gave out and so I did not get to the end of the trail.

Grouse leave plenty of tracks in snow. Here and there, too, you come across their roosting places, little oval hollows with a pile of droppings in the bottom of each. Before actually alighting, a grouse often brushes the snow with its wing-tips, while at the landing place you find distinct impressions of its wing feathers. Long-tailed birds like the pheasant and magpie frequently leave the marks of their outspread tail feathers.

The smallest tracks you will see are those of the short-tailed field voles. The tiny footprints are in pairs. At night the mice come out of their underground

(Left) NEAT FOOTPRINTS OF THE DOMESTIC CAT WALKING IN SNOW

(Below) A CARRION CROW'S TRACKS



(Right) LARGE FOOTPRINTS MADE BY A HARE AS IT MOVED SLOWLY AWAY FROM THE CAMERA



(Below) TRACKS LEFT BY A JUMPING PINE-MARTEN



tunnels for a run on the snow surface. When doing so they are sometimes taken by owls, and the marks in the snow tell the tale.

On the hills there are generally plenty of fox tracks, and if you follow them you can tell how reynard has fared in the matter of food. Perhaps he has killed a rabbit, or sprung on a roosting grouse. He covers a wide area during the night.

A fox walking leaves a line of single footprints because it places its hind feet exactly in the tracks made by its fore feet. When the animal is trotting the tracks are in pairs, one close behind the other.

Even the humble rabbit affords a bit of fun when tracking. Perhaps the trail leads far out among the heather, where you find bunny squatting beneath a patch of snow-covered ling.

Sometimes an otter, working from one watershed to another over the hills, leaves his trail beside one of the little beck which seam the fellsides. You cannot mistake his five-toed imprints.

Animal and bird tracks have their individual characteristics. A hare moving slowly, for instance, leaves quite large footprints, whereas when it is going "all out" it is well up on its toes and the imprints are small and far apart.

Birds like grouse and blackgame walk in pigeon-toed fashion, with the centre toe pointing inwards. A pheasant places its feet one exactly ahead of the other, and the centre toe points straight forward.

The hind-feet tracks of a squirrel show a distinct outward turn, while those of a vole are in pairs side by side.

Tracking is of course easiest in snow, but even on bare ground you find footprints and other signs that lead to definite conclusions. Follow the various snowy trails and you will learn a lot about the habits of the creatures which made them. It is fascinating work.

THE GOLFER'S CHRISTMAS

By BERNARD DARWIN

I HAVE always rejoiced in and very probably told before a little story which I owe to a lady of my acquaintance at St. Anne's. She was driving her car one summer's day into Blackpool near by, when a cheerful Lancashire gentleman leaped on to the running-board, and on her looking a little surprised, exclaimed: "Put a little of the carnival spirit into it, loove." I feel that I must put a little of the Christmas spirit into this article and I do not find it very easy. I doubt whether I have ever played a round of golf on Christmas Day. I have sternly refused the overtures of some kind friends who used regularly to have a golfing party over Christmas at Woking and played two 14-hole foursomes a day, with the turkey and plum pudding in between. At least they said they did, but I always had a suspicion that the afternoon round was like the 25-mile walk which the party at Dingley Dell were supposed to have taken to get rid of the effects of the wine at the wedding breakfast on December 23. It is my own impression that both round and walk were alike an illusion and that both parties really snored the afternoon away in a state of beatific repletion.

However that may be, I have always been virtuous and domestic on Christmas Day, but it might have been better for me to play golf, for the day, though a very jolly one, is also rather a long one and there are intervals that want filling up. I have been reflecting on some of my methods of doing so in times past and they appear very shameful, un-Pickwickian and almost worthy of Mr. Scrooge before his conversion. I have, for instance, distinct recollections of retiring to my own room and practising putting at the legs of tables and chairs, the melancholy rattle of the ball to and fro across the floor contrasting with the screams of proper Christmas joy in other parts of the house. This was very bad, and yet another year there was something almost worse, for I acquired some innocuous little soft balls for the purpose of practising in the garden.

These were the most ingenious little balls, made as I suppose of cork or some such substance and covered with flannel. To add verisimilitude they were beautifully wrapped up in paper like real golf balls. Moreover they were no mere toys, for they were highly instructive and responded to any kind of mishit in an eloquent manner. They left the club with the speed of thought, and then, after describing a lovely curve in the air, fell spent and lifeless at about 50 yds. or so from the tee. There was a certain knack in hitting them, and I still remember the stupefaction, not unmixed with a malignant joy, produced by the fact that when I gave one to Lady Amory (then Miss Wethered) to hit on my lawn it resolutely refused to go. It was the only kind of ball I ever saw that would not obey her. Apart from that ungallant behaviour, the ball was extraordinarily susceptible to a slice, and I cannot imagine a better means of learning to avoid that weakness.

Those little balls, long since lost in long grass or disintegrated in the branches of trees in the garden, were introduced to me by that good and thoughtful golfer from Ireland, Mr. H. M. Cairnes. He treated them with very proper seriousness, for, if I remember rightly, he pegged down a piece of string on his lawn, teed the ball in the middle of it and, guided by the straight line of the string, tried to discover if he was swinging "from inside out." I never rose to such studious heights as that, but I did grow pleasantly warm on a chilly, foggy Christmas afternoon and entirely dissipated the swinishness, as Mr. Pepys called it, produced by luncheon. By the time tea arrived I was in a real tide-tide mood and ready to pull crackers with a gay abandon.

Yet a third device for a little relief was that of the handkerchief with knots in it. That was shown me by a kind gentleman, now, I am afraid, dead, who used regularly to use it in his office. It was there, on the landing and in the quietude

of the luncheon hour, that he introduced me to it. It was an ordinary white handkerchief which he rolled up till it looked like a long, attenuated sausage. He tied first one knot in it and then another, when it assumed, roughly speaking, the shape of a golf ball with two little ears or wings projecting on either side. He teed one of these knotted handkerchiefs upon the top of another and then took his driver and let fly. The ensuing sound was as that of a pistol shot and the handkerchief hurled itself against the wall. He declared that he had tried everything else, fluffly balls, balls of rubber and balls of cork, and that there was nothing like a handkerchief. He kindly gave me one to take away with me and I wish I knew where it was now. I have never knowingly untied it. Rather I preserved it as one does an umbrella rolled by an expert, no matter how rainy the day. Nevertheless it has vanished, as such treasures have a way of doing; but before it did so I spent some cheering moments with it one Christmas afternoon and still think of it gratefully. The very noise was worth the money; crackers were nothing to it.

If these confessions appear disgraceful I am sorry for it, but after all each of us must make the best of himself as he is with all his imperfections, and not sigh in vain for good qualities to which he can never attain. So if a little time of hitting cork balls or handkerchiefs or even that gloomy putting on the floor can better fit him to light the candles on the tree, take a passionate interest in other people's presents and generally comport himself in a festive and becoming manner during the rest of the day, surely he had better have recourse to

them. No man can do more than read the Dingley Dell chapters in *Pickwick* yet again and then do his best.

I had almost forgotten one Christmas antidote—no, that is too harsh a word—one encouragement to good Christmas behaviour which I used to find most helpful. The war has, alas! taken it away, but it may yet return, though never quite, I fear, in its old form. That encouragement was the prospect of a golfing journey, immediately after Christmas. The glorious day was generally December 27 or 28, and it first happened so long ago that the station was not Paddington but Euston, and I went to it not in a mere taxi but in that fairy chariot a jingling hansom. A certain glamour still hangs in consequence round the names of Bletchley and Stafford and Rugeley (that had a glamour of its own from Mr. Palmer, the eminent poisoner) which neither Banbury nor Birmingham nor even Oakengates can ever quite afford. Shrewsbury has always been a much-loved station, and there, after my solitary gloating from Euston, I used to meet the rest of the party and we packed ourselves in tightly for the rest of the journey, with our clubs on the rack, and talked hopefully about the water which, after so dry an autumn, could not this time be upon the Crater green. "It never can happen again" as it used to do, but, please goodness, something like it may.

Well now, my paper draws near its allotted span. Have I succeeded in getting any of the Christmas spirit into what I have written? Not quite the orthodox spirit, I fear, but the great thing about Christmas is that we can all enjoy it in rather different ways. So let the reader translate the cork balls or the handkerchief or the journey into his own terms, forgetting my absurd pleasures and remembering his own much more sensible ones. If I have made him do that I shall have deserved, if I have not earned, his gratitude.

BLOODSTOCK AUCTIONS FEATURES OF THE DECEMBER SALES

IT has become merely a commonplace when writing the story of the most recent bloodstock auction to say that the results were extraordinary. It was said after the last December sales; it was repeated after the September yearling auction; at the recent sales at Newmarket, the results were not only extraordinary but unprecedented. They were extraordinary in that, judged on previous markets, many of the prices were fictitious; unprecedented in that there was a tremendous influx of newcomers as would-be purchasers not content with anything but what they considered the best. Mr. Walter Hutchinson, the publisher, was one of these. He paid Sir William Cooke 13,500 gs. for the late Windsor Lad's two-year-old son Happy Landing, reckoned very little inferior to Miss Paget's Orestes, who is without a doubt the best of his age.

HORSES IN TRAINING

This was the highest price of the first day and the week, but other good figures were obtained on the Monday, when the catalogue consisted chiefly of horses in training. Gerald Armstrong, for instance, disbursed 1,500 gs. for a chestnut colt by Panorama; Mr. Clifford Nicholson, who owns the Limestone Stud, near Lincoln, gave Lord Astor 5,500gs. for his three-year-old Fairway colt Way In and incidentally prevented him from going to the Argentine, the under-bidder being Mr. L. H. White who was buying on a big scale for that country. Steve Donoghue, buying for Mr. Wade, a Birmingham industrialist, paid 4,000gs. for Bois Roussel's two-year-old son Wood Cot, and Captain Evan Williams, who rode Royal Mail to victory in the Grand National of 1937 and whose wife has recently bought the famous Foxhill Stud, went to 2,100gs. to obtain the young Bahram mare Babylon. The total for the day was 53,650gs., and some 120 lots were disposed of.

An early start was made on the Tuesday and the first price of note was the 1,500gs. which Fred Templeman gave for a strikingly

good-looking Gold Bridge yearling colt, on behalf of Mr. Lilley, a member of the firm of Lilley and Skinner, the boot manufacturers. Not long after this the Lambourn trainer was again in the market and took a neat grey filly-foal by Admiral's Walk, for the same patron, at 620gs., while Joe Lawson, buying for Mr. A. E. Saunders, the owner of the Two Thousand Guineas winner Kingsway, went to 500gs. to obtain Watling Street's half-sister Kew.

This rather led up to the big stuff. Fred Templeman was again busy and just outstayed Mathew Peacock, bidding for Sir Eric Ohlson, to obtain a chestnut colt-foal by Hyperion at 3,000gs.; the British Bloodstock Agency went to 800gs. for the young Sir Cosmo mare Valerie; the Hon. George Lambton, buying for Lord Fitzwilliam, paid 3,100gs. for the young Cameronian mare Heather B., who cost Lady Wyfold, who was now selling her, 240gs. two years ago; the B.B.A. were in the market again for the grey Truculent mare Grey Seal and for the well-known stallion Felicitation and got them at 1,000gs. and at 4,500gs. respectively, while Mrs. Nagle gave 2,100gs. for the seven-year-old Caerleon mare Caerwys, who looks in foal to Dastur, and the Anglo-Irish Agency went to 1,500gs. for the stallion Valerian. The total of the day was 50,435gs. for about 160 lots.

THE PITT STUD HORSES

Wednesday's catalogue opened with the lots from the late Mr. F. W. Talbot's Pitt Stud at Winchester. It was in every way a choice collection, the best being Watling Street's half-sister Diosma, who is carrying to Windsor Lad; the Fairway mare Fair Venus, who is also in foal to Windsor Lad, and her chestnut filly-foal by Solario. These made 2,000gs., 2,200gs. and 2,500gs. Mr. H. J. Joel bought Diosma and Mathew Peacock the other two for Sir Eric Ohlson. This was a bright beginning and, a lot or two later, Mr. Clifford Nicholson went to 1,550gs. to get the Salmon Trout mare Queen o' Roses and Fred Templeman, bidding for Mr. Lilley, gave 2,900gs. for her filly-foal by

Fairway. A quiet spell came then, but it was not of long duration, as Walter Earl, bidding for a Mr. Ferguson, a newcomer, took a bay Atout Maitre filly-foal at 730gs.; Mathew Peacock an early-foaled colt-foal by Mieuxce at 2,300gs. and Frank Butters the Cameronian mare Serelia at 1,500gs.; while Lord Willoughby de Broke gave 860gs. for the Fairway mare Fairy Sue and Mrs. Nagle 1,200gs. for Colorado's sister Bright Angel. Both these were listed by Mr. Calton, who bought them at the sales 12 months ago for, respectively, 220gs. and 160gs.

Later on Mr. John Ismay bought the Gainsborough mare Gadabout at 1,600gs. and Pay Up's half-sister Better Bread, who is carrying to Donatello II, at 100gs. less; Mr. McVey, who has business interests in Scotland and bloodstock in Ireland, took a very neat yearling by Admiral's Walk, out of a Bahram mare, at 1,150gs. and the grey Mahmoud mare Emma for 1,350gs.; Lord Manton gave 1,700gs. for Felsetta, and Tom Hall, the Tadcaster trainer, 1,600gs. for a bay yearling filly by Pay Up out of Gainsborough's daughter Gadabout, a great-granddaughter of Pretty Polly. About 160 lots were disposed of on the day and the total was 64,070gs.

Things were busy from the start on Thursday as the Anglo-Irish Agency gave 1,400gs. for the fifth lot to enter the ring. This was a brown colt-foal by Sir Cosmo and, a few lots later, Walter Earl, bidding for Mr. Ferguson, went to 2,600gs. for the only Panorama foal in the catalogue. This foal, with his dam Fire Maiden, was sent up by Mr. Hawes, a Newmarket pork-butcher who bought Fire Maiden when carrying the foal for 60gs. at the July Sales, 1942. Here Fire Maiden made 620gs. Mr. John Ismay, who is interested in the Winter Paddocks Stud and the Windsor Forest Stud, then paid 1,150gs. for Fairway's daughter Fair Music, who is carrying to Orthodox (Hyperion); Purcell, who manages for Miss Dorothy Paget, went to 1,500gs. for the Solario mare Sunbonnet, who is in foal to Diplomat; the Hon. George Lambton bought Foxlaw's young daughter Sly Abbess at 1,950gs. and a yearling colt by Felstead at 1,350gs.; Sir William Cooke and Mr. Barrington both gave a level 1,000gs. for, respectively, the Foxlaw mare Tapestry and Bahram's daughter Hunt the Slipper; Mr. Alan Baker disbursed 3,000gs. for the Countess of Kenmare's Conversation Piece, while her chestnut filly-foal by Donatello II went to Mr. Donaldson at 1,800gs.; Mr. Bull had to pay

4,000gs. for the Pharos mare Naptha, who was the only mare in the catalogue certain in foal to Big Game; Arthur Brice gave 3,300gs. for a Fairway mare who descends from Pretty Polly, and, almost at the end of the day, Jack Jarvis, probably buying for Sir John Jarvis, paid over 9,000gs. for Jacob's Ladder, a half-sister to Lady Sybil, that looks in foal to Hyperion. Lots sold were approximately the same as on Wednesday, and the total made was 79,965gs.

Friday's last-day catalogue was, as usual, a short one with no big prices to record. The total was only 12,315gs., but added to those of the other days made a yield of 260,435gs., which is the highest recorded since 1929 and, in all probability, when the official figures are issued will be found to show a better average per lot than was recorded then.

In every way it was a great sale and one that bodes well for the future of the industry. Mr. Gerald Deane and Mr. Jack Cherry, with some slight assistance from Captain Kenneth Watt, sold throughout the week, as Mr. Bob Needham is down with 'flu. It was a grand performance on their part, and they are to be congratulated in getting through so very satisfactorily.

ROSTON.

CORRESPONDENCE

TENEMENTS OR HOUSES?

SIR,—In your Notes in the issue of December 3 of your ever delightful paper, the County of London Plan is praised for its "being conceived on a basis of flats," but may I point out that Mr. Trystan Edwards has shown that the same number of people—136 to the acre—as given in the Plan for the main construction areas, could easily be accommodated in streets of small houses, each having a small back garden and still with one-fifth of an acre as open space?

It is generally recognised that the vast majority of people concerned would prefer small houses to flats. This is surely a case where their wishes might well be respected—especially perhaps when we hear so much talk of democracy.

It also seems to be a terrible example of waste to pull down hundreds of thousands of houses as a first contribution towards curing a great housing shortage. A city of tenements is a poor alternative indeed! A tenement civilisation, cut adrift from the traditions of the past, is surely far from being a stable one. It is also somewhat disgusting to attempt to get such a change decided on when so great a number of the citizens are in the Services.—POWYS EVANS, *Bryn Tirion, Bodedern, near Holyhead.*

A BALL AT WANSTEAD HOUSE

SIR,—Mr. Hamilton Kerr in his most interesting and delightful article in *COUNTRY LIFE* of October 22, entitled *East of Aldgate*, speaks of Wanstead Park, Essex, with its 184 acres of

public parkland and large and beautiful ornamental lake surrounded by tall trees; and of Wanstead House, the magnificent Palladian mansion built by Colin Campbell for Lord Tynley in 1720 and pulled down in 1822.

The mention of this great house brings to mind an entertaining picture, entitled *The Wanstead Assembly*, painted by Hogarth, of a ball which took place there in about 1728. Full of vigorous movement, it shows a lively party of fashionable people dancing a country dance by the light of candles set in wall sconces and in a large 12-branch chandelier; while the full moon shining through the open lattice window also casts its beams upon the scene, lighting up the white handkerchief with which one of the dancers, who has taken off his wig, and while gazing out at the moon, is mopping

his bald head. This brilliant study, an early masterpiece of Hogarth's, measuring 25 ins. by 30 ins., was painted in his thirty-second year. It is now the property of the South London Art Gallery, Camberwell, S.E.—H. CLIFFORD SMITH, *Highclere, near Newbury, Berkshire.*

A RELIC OF OLD AMERICA

SIR,—I was very much interested in the letter in your issue of October 22 referring to the Relic of Old America, and illustrating a paper note with face value of 1s.

I have in my possession an exactly similar one, word for word, even to the date of issue (April 3, 1772) and the names of the printers. Mine is, however, of the more humble value of 3d., and has only one original signature (Adm. Hubley) instead of three.

Also there is no floral design on the reverse side.—FRANK WALKER, *St. Albans, Hertfordshire.*

A PROLIFIC DOVE

SIR,—Our turtle doves bred all through the year. The hen got the first pair off the nest and then laid again at once. For years we had many doves, but owls decreased them gradually. The ultimate survivor of the party, a very friendly old gentleman, used to walk about the house like a dog. We kept four twigs on my writing desk and as I sat at it he used to hop up and perch on his "nest" for a few minutes, then go off and sit by the fire, if it was cold.—D. M. BELL-IRVING, *White Hill, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.*

KNUCKLE-BONE PAVING

SIR,—About 30 years ago an old lady asked me if I knew what the paving in the porch of a small ornamental building was made of. I supposed pebbles. No, she said, it was sheep knuckle-bones, and it was a great pity the village boys were destroying it to play with.

The interesting point is that she had come to the place as the carter's young bride about 1868. The building with the knuckle-bone paving in the porch had been made in 1833. Yet she knew all about it, and what is more took a vicarious pride in it. The paving was much more tightly packed than that shown in the illustration which you published on November 26 and only the ridges of the knuc-



THE WANSTEAD ASSEMBLY, BY HOGARTH

See letter: A Ball at Wanstead House

showed. Regrettably, I noted its gradual disappearance in the years that followed.—KATHARINE M. R. KENVON, *Yew Tree Cottage, Colden Common, Winchester.*

SIR,—The floor of a semicircular Georgian parlour in the walled garden of The Mansion, Louth, Lincolnshire, is paved with alternate squares of buckle-bones and flint. I have heard it said that this was made by French prisoners. I cannot think this likely, unless it was done during the tenure of one, General Loft, during the Napoleonic wars.—J. T. YATES, 6, *St. Edmund Street, Oxford.*

when I became chairman there was no street lighting. At the annual meeting a demand for this was put forward, strongly supported, and it was decided we should install two lamps a year until we had an adequate supply. (We have now 14.) The annual parish meeting after prolonged eager discussion decided each year where the lamps should be placed, and the final result has given general satisfaction.

From experience I know that the parish meeting not only stimulates interest in parish affairs and brings forward new ideas for improvements, but it helps to evoke a community feeling and spirit which has proved its value during these difficult years of war.—P. C. LOFTUS, *House of Commons.*

[In assuming that we recommended the general suppression of parish meetings Mr. Loftus has misread our intention, and we are grateful to him for giving us this opportunity to make our meaning clearer. We entirely agree with his estimate both of the importance of the annual parish meeting in voicing the opinions of the inhabitants and as to its democratic function in choosing and guiding its elected councillors. We were in fact urging that the system he so justly praises in his own parish should be extended to the smaller parishes, where at present there is no parish council and the "Meeting" is the only local government body. We deal with this

proposal again in one of this week's editorial Notes.—Ed.]



THE ROUND TOWER AT ABERNETHY

See letter: A Tower in Perthshire

THE PARISH MEETING

From Mr. P. C. Loftus, M.P.

SIR,—I was dismayed to read in your editorial article of November 19 *à propos* of parish councils "the reforms most needed are the creation of a parish council and the abolition of the parish meeting."

I would point out that the parish meeting is the oldest democratic institution in England, that it was in existence before the Norman Conquest and that it is of course far older than Parliament itself.

Therefore the onus of proof as to the necessity or desirability of its abolition rests upon those who propose the abolition of this most ancient of our institutions.

I have been a chairman of a parish council for over 20 years past, and I have always found the annual parish meeting not only interesting and varied but most helpful to the work of the council.

To give an instance: the parish had a population of about 800 and

A TOWER IN PERTHSHIRE

SIR,—I send you a picture of the cross and round tower at Abernethy, Perthshire, which was restored by the Office of Works. This village was once a Pictish capital, and the tower (one of three in Scotland) was built in 712. Hanging off its base is a "joug," an old-time form of punishment, a halter (or "handcuff") for the neck first used 400 years ago. Also alongside is the symbol stone about 5 ft. high.—F. R. WINSTONE, *Bristol.*

A MEDIAEVAL BELL

SIR,—Resting close to the screen in Tideswell (Derbyshire) Church can be seen an ancient bell, which bears the inscription in Latin: "I have the name of Gabriel who was sent from Heaven." Of this bell, Dr. Cox, the historian, states:

"The lettering on the bell is Old English with Lombardic capitals. It is one of the most interesting bells in

the county, and we have little doubt that it is coeval with the erection of the Church."

If this is correct, then the bell is practically 600 years old. Until the bells were recast in 1929 it occupied the position of fourth bell in the belfry, but a new bell has taken its place.—R. RAWLINSON, *Rock Bank, Whaley Bridge, near Stockport.*

REVIVAL OF OLD COUNTRY CRAFTS

SIR,—It is not very often that one hears of lace-making finding a place on the school curriculum, but when one does, it is natural, perhaps, that it should be in Bedfordshire, one of the centres of the lace-making craft. For some 14 or 15 years now, lace-making has been taught in the Harpur Trust Central Selective School, Bedford, and many of the hundred or so senior girls who learn it each year have become very proficient in this delicate art.

This revival of an old country craft, in itself of interest because so many of these crafts are, alas! slowly dying out, has been lent added interest of late from the fact that during the last few years many of the evacuee children attending the school have received instruction in lace-making alongside the local children. When the evacuee girls arrived in September, 1939, mostly from the Greater London area, they were greatly interested in the lace-making class which they saw at work in the Harpur Trust Central School, and soon many of them were begging to be allowed to join it. This sudden influx of enthusiasts created something of a problem as regards equipment, but as the equipment, especially in the early stages, is simple and easily improvised, the difficulty was soon overcome. In the four years which have elapsed since then over 200 of these evacuee girls, many of whom have now left school and returned to their London homes, have learned this lovely craft.

A great deal has been written and said for and against the evacuation scheme, but perhaps here is one



A LACE-MAKING CLASS IN BEDFORD

See letter: Revival of Old Country Crafts

DOGS IN CHURCH

SIR,—Mr. Bull's letter in your issue of November 26, with illustration of a racing dog on one of the misericords now in Sneinton parish church, which came from the old mother church of St. Mary, causes me to wonder how many people to-day know the story of how they came to be removed to Sneinton, a story which sheds some light on church life round about 1870, when St. Mary's was undergoing restoration.

I had the story, some 57 years ago, from the late Mr. W. H. Wilcockson, at that time general manager of the old Notts Bank, who was a strong supporter of the new church at Sneinton and who claimed to be one of the first choirmen in Nottingham to wear a surplice, which was considered in those days to be very high church indeed. It appears that he heard of the old mediæval stalls being thrown out of St. Mary's into the churchyard during the restoration, and he—or a friend, I'm not sure which—bought them for 10s. and

THE BALLOON STONE

SIR,—Your readers may be interested in this photograph of a memorial to the first "aerial traveller" in Britain. Now that aircraft is in the foremost news of the day this memorial, known as the Balloon Stone and standing in a field at Stanton, near Ware, Hertfordshire, is of topical interest. The rough-hewn stone, protected by iron railings, marks the spot where the first man to sail in the air in England, descended.

The details are thus related on a folding brass plate: "Let Posterity know and knowing be astonished, that on the 15th day of September 1784, Vincent Lunardi of Lucca in Tuscany, the first aerial traveller in Britain, mounted from Artillery Ground in London, and traversing the regions of the air for two hours and fifteen



WHERE THE FIRST AIR TRAVELLER IN BRITAIN LANDED

See letter: The Balloon Stone

gave them to Sneinton.

When Bodley restored St. Mary's in 1891 and put in the present stalls and screen, they tried without avail to get them back, but—saddest of all words—it was "too late"!—E. L. ARMSTRONG, *Salterns House, Parkstone, Dorset.*

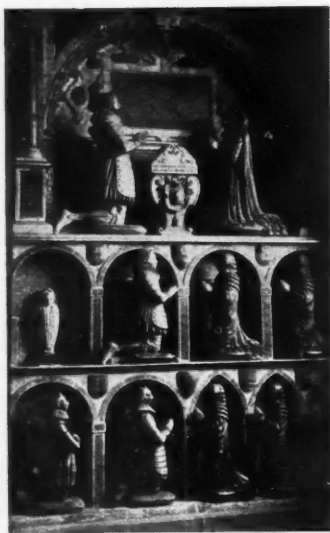
IN THE VERNON CHAPEL

SIR,—Bakewell church, Derbyshire, is famous as the resting-place of Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall. Of much more interest than her tomb is the one to her eldest son George which stands facing it in the Vernon chapel.

It was built by his widow at her own expense, and an inscription explains this as a fulfilment of her vow that their ashes and dust should lie together. To her children was left the task of filling in the date of her death, but it was never done. Above the arch are carved the ironical words "The day of a man's death is better than his birth."

Their nine children each have arched recesses with a Biblical inscription carved above. The baby, tied round the neck and feet like a mummy, has the inscription: "Mine age is nothing in respect of thee," and the weak-minded son bears the words: "by the grace of God I am what I am."—F. R., *Derby.*

[Mrs. K. A. Esdaile writes: The interesting monument erected to Sir George Vernon by his widow in 1623 is an excellent example of its class and may well be the work of John, son to Robert Smithson (died 1614), who, as his epitaph says, was Architect and Surveyor into the most worthy House of Wollaton. John succeeded him in his office, and was a correspondent of Thomas Ashby, a colleague of Inigo Jones on certain buildings, and works by both Smithsons are in the catalogued collection at the R.I.B.A. The strongest influence in the Vernon monument is the Anglo-Flemish as we see it in the elder Smithson's tomb to Bess of Hardwick at Derby (*Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, 1939, pages 92-3), and there are details which do not suggest a



THE TOMB OF DOROTHY VERNON'S SON

See letter: In the Vernon Chapel

hereditary official in the Cavendish family gave him both fame and influence.—ED.]

AN OLD WELSH CUSTOM, PLYGAIN

SIR,—Up to the year 1800, there was a well-known festival held at Christmas-time called Plygain. It was held particularly in the Flintshire churches. Plygain means "the crowing of the cock" or the "Feather Mass." The service began about three o'clock in the morning of Christmas Day. Numbers of candles were placed in lumps of clay all around the church. Disorder often prevailed at these services, and in one instance it resulted in disaster. The north side of Cilcen church, Flintshire, was burnt down, on Christmas morning, 1542, "when the parishioners were assembled for a High Mass, common to the people of Wales and which is called Plygain." One reason given for the discontinuation was that often the parishioners stayed in the public-houses until the time for the service, and then proceeded to the church in a merry mood.

At Hope church, in Flintshire, an amusing incident took place when two merry young gentlemen were sitting behind a man with a head of bushy red hair; they thought it would be fun to set it alight and did so. This temporarily finished Plygain in Hope. By a church vestry meeting in 1770 it was decided to discontinue the service. Twelve months later it was revived only to be dropped again in 1789. In 1860 a further attempt was made to revive it, but only 20 people attended.—A. M., *Abingdon, Berkshire.*

BRASSES ON A CAR

SIR,—Mr. Dick Wilderspin of Swavesey, Cambridgeshire, is an enthusiastic collector of horse brasses and has decorated with them the windscreen and wings of his 1912 car, which has had only one previous owner, who ran it 26 years. In the motor and cycle business for the village, it has proved a fine advertisement for its new owner.—D.K., *Cambridge.*

A HIGHCLERE LEGEND

SIR,—The ghost's name was Grumpus, and he was evil. According to

one theory he was the malevolent shade of Sir Robert Sawyer, who was Attorney-General in Charles II's reign and whose daughter married the 8th Earl of Pembroke. Sir Robert bought Highclere, Hampshire, and re-built the church (now no more) which stood on the north side of the house, near an ancient yew tree.

How Grumpus first manifested himself and proved to be a nuisance is not quite clear, but local feeling must have been against him, since several clergymen assembled and "laid" him in an old well. After an interval, however, Grumpus came out and proceeded to terrorise the people of the parish. A second time reverend gentlemen were convened to "lay" him, but their number was only 11, which apparently comprehended too little either of faith or works, for Grumpus, arriving in the middle of the room where they were gathered together, dispersed them without more ado.

Next, 12 clergymen met, and they prevailed; they "laid" Grumpus in the old yew tree near the church. But there came a stormy night of wind and rain, thunder and lightning. Grumpus seized what must have been a Satan-seized opportunity: rending the yew in two, he burst forth, and resumed his mischief-making.

Evidently he was a versatile ghost, for people who saw him were not agreed as to his form. Sometimes he might be a headless coachman driving a coach and six horses which snorted fire; at others he was a mastiff, belching flames. Either apparition was unwelcome to the people



THE YEW TREE WHICH WAS SPLIT BY A GHOST

See letter: A Highclere Legend

of Highclere, so clergymen were assembled for a fourth time, and on this occasion they "laid" Grumpus farther away—in the Red Sea.

Since then nothing seems to have been heard of Grumpus, but Robert Browning, when at Highclere Castle 70 years ago (November, 1873), perpetrated the following lines:

Within a hundred years shall Grumpus

Arise, and make indeed a rumpus;
Coot-like shall he appear
With comb red as a yew-berry,
And crowing High and Clere
Astonish Newbury.

The unfortunate yew which failed to contain Grumpus before his banishment to the Red Sea was a mere shell as long ago as 1851, yet, being then

filled with cement and brickwork, it has survived in divided halves to the present time.—J. W., *Bradfield, Berkshire.*

IN SCREVETON CHURCH

SIR,—I was interested to see, in *COUNTRY LIFE* of October 22, Mr. Richardson's photograph of the mediæval misericord at Screveton, Nottinghamshire. He asks if any reader can explain the action of the uplifted hand of the man warming himself by



AN EMANCIPATION MISERICORD?

See letter: In Screveton Church

the fire. My suggestion is that the hand is holding a pair of bellows with which the man has blown up the fire to the comforting blaze depicted in the carving.

You may be interested to see the accompanying photograph of a misericord of more recent date which is also in Screveton church.

The carving is intended to symbolise the abolition of the slave trade and the welcome which awaits the emancipated slave within the arms of the Church. It has been suggested to me that the central figure of the carving represents Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, son of William Wilberforce, whose efforts were largely responsible for the passing of the Bill of Emancipation in 1833. The staff carried by the Bishop was originally a crosier, but the cross at the top has been broken off.—A. W. BULL, *Beeston, Nottinghamshire.*

NOTES FROM NORTH UIST

SIR,—During the second half of October and the first week of November there was a larger movement of wild geese than for a number of years past, particularly of white-fronted geese and grey lag in a lesser degree, but very few bernacle.

A friend writing to me early in November tells me that an enormous flock of white-fronted passed him at great speed and he saw one of them drop, then falter and follow on with the rest. Another goose dropped and did not recover itself. He says it must have been the work of a peregrine. It seems strange, and he does not mention actually seeing the falcon. Would a peregrine not follow the first bird struck down, or would he wantonly destroy as many as he could for "sport"? From my own experience I do not think they would kill except for necessary food. Some years ago I watched a peregrine in pursuit of a small flock of bernacle geese and he was successful, but was content with the one bird. A goose seems rather big game for this falcon, and the case of the bernacle is my only experience with geese.

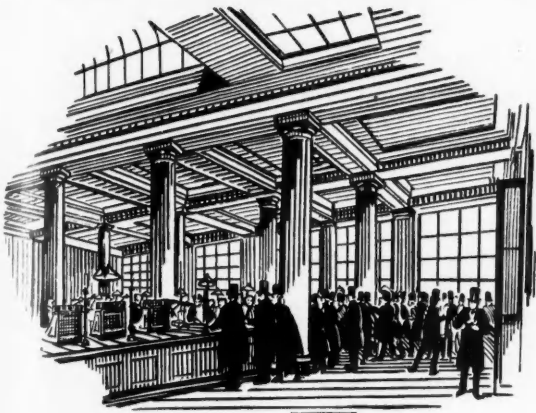
On November 1 a chaffinch was heard and on three occasions during mid-November snipe have been heard "drumming," the last being heard about 10 p.m. on a calm frosty night, accompanied by the roaring of stags.

On November 5 I found a clump of corn marigold in full bloom.—G. B., *North Uist.*



HORSE BRASSES ON A CAR

See letter: Brasses on a Car



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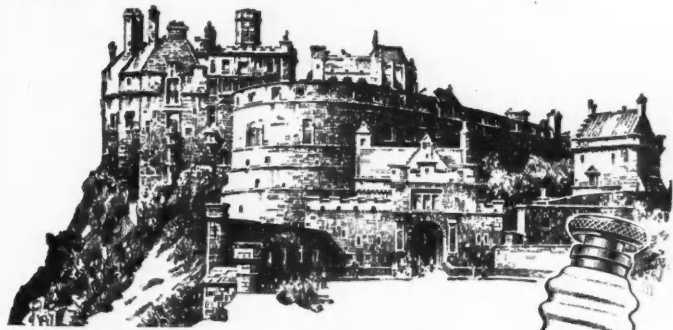
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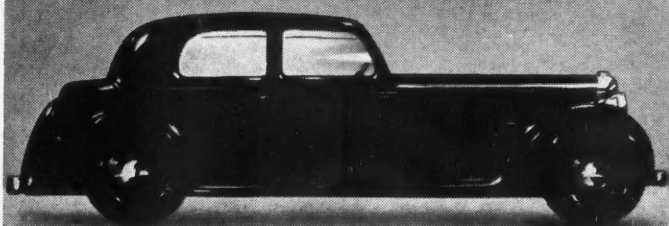
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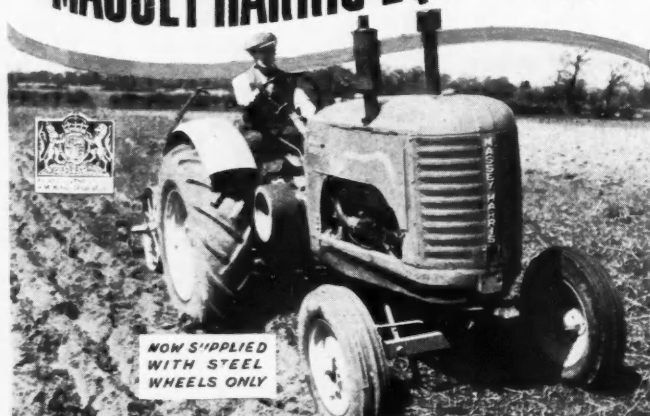


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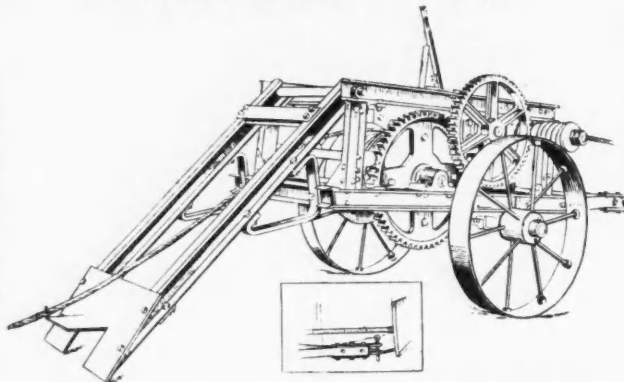
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FARMING NOTES

A CANADIAN VIEW

IT is good sometimes to see ourselves as others see us. Mr. R. S. Kennedy, who is the editor of the *Family Herald and Weekly Star*, one of Canada's leading farm papers, has spent two months in this country looking round our farming. The impressions he is taking back to Canada are for the most part entirely favourable. What impressed him most was the willing co-operation of farmers in backing the Government's food-production policy. The system by which the Ministry of Agriculture has brought in leading farmers in each county to run the campaign locally has appealed greatly to him, and he has nothing but praise for the activities of the War Agricultural Committees. He was struck by the amount of work that we put into our land. Our cultivations and the amount of fertilisers we apply far outstrip what is normal in Canada. Our yields are at least twice those ordinarily obtained in the Dominion. It is true of course that our agriculture has been whipped into a high pace of production during these four war years. We are working our land harder and putting more into the land. Some gauge of this can be found in the trebling of our tractor strength and the vastly greater quantities of phosphates now being applied to the land. Mr. Kennedy was also impressed by the ability of our farmers to spend freely in order to get high output. He was surprised several times in going round farms to find that farmers thought nothing of spending £300-£400 on a tractor and a similar amount on implements, whereas the Canadian farmer has to "make do" with much more scanty equipment. Here, of course, it should be said that our farmers have been pressed to undertake a rapid expansion and that the rate of their spending in these four years has been quite abnormal. Our farms are now highly mechanised—more highly mechanised than the farms of Canada.

MR. KENNEDY was at pains to explain that Canada is not wholly a country of big prairie farms. There are many thousands of small farms in Eastern Canada which are comparable to our small farms in this country. Comparing the typical farm in Eastern Canada and the typical dairy farm here, Mr. Kennedy found that we employ more labour, partly, he thought, because we have long been accustomed to employ plenty of labour, whereas in Canada man-power has always been short and the farms were laid out and equipped to save labour. It is on this point that Mr. Kennedy had something critical to say about British farming. Our buildings, most of them at least 70 years old and some 200 or more years old, are far from convenient. There is too much hand-hauling of fodder and other requirements from one part of the steading to another. By contrast the typical Canadian farm has one big shed where the cows are housed and above this the hay, straw and other feed is stored, so that, once it is there, gravity does the rest and hauling about fodder is reduced to a minimum. I am not sure what the local health authorities have to say about food being stored over the heads of the cows. At least in one case a farmer was stopped from constructing a shed in this style because of the danger of dust falling through the roof and contaminating the milk. This is a point that seems worth looking into before we get into our stride with the reconstruction of farm buildings, which will be one necessity after the war. If farmers are to make the best use of the labour they employ and pay high

wages they will certainly need convenient buildings.

MR. KENNEDY also had something to say about the profitability of our farming. He thinks we are making more money than Canadian farmers. This may well be so to-day. No doubt he saw some of the larger farmers who, well equipped with up-to-date machinery and fortunate in holding good farms, are able to make big profits. He said he was horrified at the amount of money they were paying in Excess Profits Tax. But, as I have stressed here before, those who pay E.P.T. are a very small minority. The great number are not ideally situated to making big profits at war-time prices. They have had to revolutionise their farms. In many cases they were relying largely on pigs and poultry for their income in pre-war days. Now that has gone and instead they are trying to grow corn and potatoes. In this line of production they are at a serious disadvantage with the bigger farmer, and, if Mr. Kennedy could have probed their accounts, I do not think he would have found that they are making extravagant profits.

LOOKING ahead to after the war, Mr. Kennedy is one of those who believe that the farmers of the world must recognise that they are all in the same boat and that they are not competitors. So far as Canadian wheat is concerned and Canadian bacon, which is now coming to this country in very large quantities, Mr. Kennedy assures us that the Canadian farmers have no intention of working to cut-throat prices. But he foresees that Denmark when she gets going again will beat both Canada and Britain in the bacon market because of the good reputation she has established with the English housewife. Is it too much to hope that the interests of the primary producers the world over can be safeguarded by Government action? We have seen the preliminary steps taken at the Hot Springs Conference, which was attended by representatives of all the United Nations. Some general principles have been laid down. But the time is short enough for building effectively on these principles.

FOLLOWING Mr. Mansfield's broadcast on *Cattle at the Cross Roads*, to which I referred last week, we are to hear four discussions about sheep. Sheep have been under a cloud since the war started, particularly lowland grass sheep which have had to make way for tillage crops. Now there is scope for a considerable expansion in sheep flocks, and we should enter on this with clear ideas about the types which are most suitable. In almost every district there is a mix-up of types and breeds and several different systems of management are practised. I think we should be able to clear our heads a little about the best methods that can be developed to meet the changed conditions. From now onwards, a lowland sheep will be grazing largely on leys, and labour will be expensive. Is the Half-bred ewe, that is the Border Leicester cross Cheviot, the only type that can be generally recommended for mixed farms in the southern half of England? If so, the prices of breeding ewes are likely to remain very high for several years to come, because the supply of the type of sheep is limited. Are there other types suitable for ley farming which can be bred pure so that farmers do not need to go continually to Scotland and the North for the replenishment of breeding flock? CINCINNATUS.

THE ESTATE MARKET

LAST SALES OF THE YEAR

BUSINESS continues fairly brisk, considering the usual slackening off at the end of the year. There are buyers for nearly every type of country property, and in London and the suburbs an increase of the enquiries for houses, and even for sites, is full of promise for the future.

FLATS AND COUNTRY FREEHOLDS

THE proprietors of some of the blocks of flats which have remained in private control are expressing something like surprise that the results of their operations have shown a considerable recovery, although the outgoings are leaping up. Furnished flats, of course, are in strong request at rising rents, but the flat which a tenant has to equip does not make such a favourable showing. Wages, motivations and fuel are a few of the difficulties, and another is the need to keep a vigilant eye on the present interpretation and eventual effect of the mass of legislation now governing the relation of landlord and tenant.

Country residential freeholds of a few acres are still on the up-grade in price, but buyers have been a trifle less keen in the last week or two, and sales have fallen off a little, as they generally do at this period of the year. Market totals have been mainly made up of urban small investments, which find an eager demand everywhere.

OWNERSHIP AND TENURE OF LAND

THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH made a special journey from Scotland to take part in a private conference of experts which has just been held in London. He said that, notwithstanding present disadvantages, landowners, as a class, would, he believed, wish to carry on after the war, but tenants as well as owners must do their part. Good farming and the maintenance of fertility were as necessary to the owner as was the provision of up-to-date buildings for the tenant. Upkeep and improvement of properties had been curtailed during the war, and taxation had led to excessive and compulsory sales of timber. The basis on which death duties were levied ought to be the subject of official enquiry. In recent years the farmer had received large sums in subsidies, but landowners who provided the land, buildings and fixed plant nothing at all. At least such re-equipment of buildings as was ordered or sanctioned by agricultural committees for farmers should be allowed, through the maintenance claim, for purposes of taxation. One of their tasks and their duty, after war ended, would be to help ex-service men to a life on the land.

ANOTHER NEWMARKET PURCHASE

MRS. COUNTESS FITZGERALD, has purchased the famous residence at Newmarket known as Warren Towers, which at one time belonged to Sir Daniel Cooper.

Among the last farm sales of the year may be mentioned that, by Messrs. Fox & Sons' Southampton office, of 170 acres at Bishops Waltham, known as Bishopsdown Farm. The rental, including a small house and 7 acres, called Cornhill, is £275 a year. Bidding began at £3,500, and rose, in a few minutes, to £5,950, at which a sale was declared.

A JOLT FOR JORROCKS

IN his speeches and "sporting" lectures to large audiences at Handley Cross, Jorrock, that prosperous City grocer, declared that "Of all situations under the sun, none is more enviable or more honorable than that of a master of foxhounds. Talk of an M.P.! vot's an M.P. compared to an M.F.H.?" Occasional friction with masters of the adjoining countries, or the failure of many of those who attended the meets to pay their subscriptions, were the only, and trifling, troubles of Jorrock and his contemporaries. Provided that a little care was taken not to damage growing crops, hunting men could count on a friendly attitude in the farmers, many of whom indeed not only rode to hounds but offered hospitality if a meet could be fixed at their farms. Except for the real or imaginary difficulties of fences and streams, little or nothing prevented a good rider from going anywhere. The open character of the country remained unimpaired down to quite recent times. But conditions are changing adversely for fox-hunting.

THE OUTLOOK FOR HUNTING

AN agent in one of the well-known countries says he looks with some misgivings to the future. "At the best, the number of possible or really recommendable meets must be much reduced," he says. "Some of the newer farmers lack both the time and the taste for hunting, and they will object to hounds crossing their carefully cultivated holdings. In itself that will take the edge off enjoyment such as used to be had, and a yet more serious drawback will be the enclosure of very extensive tracts for aerodromes and other purposes. The long runs, never under-estimated by those who took part in them, must tend to be impossible in some districts, and the 'hunting-box' will have to find a new use. You will understand that, for certain reasons, I dare not specify the class of constructional and other war-time innovations that are tending to deprive certain localities of any of their former attractions for the scarlet-coated sportsmen. I doubt whether some of the farmers will extend the old-time welcome to them. Mechanical cultivation, because of its specially enlarged fields, might please the less daring horsemen, but the outstandingly commercial character of that type of farming may prove inconsistent with encouragement of sport. Time will tell, and there is no need yet to be pessimistic about what is, after all, one of the finest of old English country pursuits."

BUSINESS IN BOURNEMOUTH

ONCE again Bournemouth, by its lists of transactions through the leading agents, stands prominently as a town of pre-eminent activity in property matters. Examining a score of outlines of recent contracts, arranged through Messrs. Fox and Sons, it would seem that, notwithstanding the demand for property there, prices in Bournemouth are continuing at a very reasonable level. There may be private and undisclosed dealings by individual owners at exorbitant figures, but auction results are reassuring to would-be buyers, and almost weekly there is a chance of securing good freeholds or leaseholds by public competition. In normal times Bournemouth offers a remarkable combination of all that is best in seaside environment, and municipal rates have hitherto remained at a comparatively low point. ARBITER.

ROAD SIGN RECOLLECTIONS

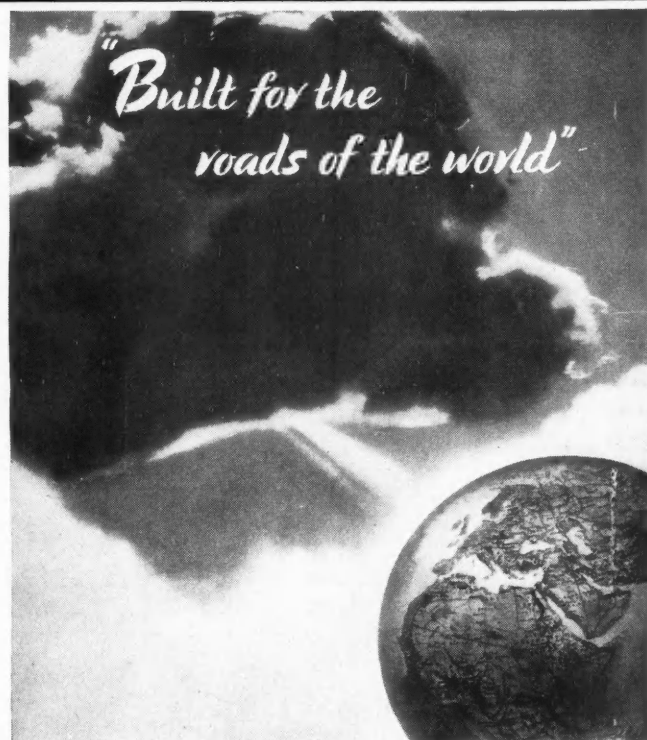


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NEW BOOKS

THE WOMEN GO TO WAR

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

SOON after the last war ended, I was sent, as a newspaper reporter, to write about the unveiling of a memorial to women who had been killed in the war. They were not many, as casualties in war go: not so many, I suppose, as a single mammoth bomb might now destroy in one second. None the less, it seemed to me that the occasion was important because it was a symptom. So far as I knew, this was the first memorial that had ever been unveiled in Britain to women who had gone to war as an organised force.

I wrote an article stressing this side of the matter and suggesting that what this memorial did was to admit that now women, like men, were eligible to be lined up when the trumpet sounded again. We should then, I said, see to what lengths this first elementary step might be carried.

THE FUTURE TREND

A professor of history who was present at the service wrote a letter to my editor protesting that I had dealt with the whole thing from the wrong angle. My editor seemed to agree with him and gave me a wiggling. But I felt, and still feel, that the professor of history, however strong his knowledge of the past may have been, had small intuition concerning history's future trend.

The trivial incident came back to my mind when I took up Mr. J. B. Priestley's *British Women Go to War* (Collins, 12s. 6d.). The book is superbly illustrated with colour photographs taken by Mr. P. G. Hennell. One of them shows a girl in the Wrens handling a torpedo. "It is part of the fascinating irony of our strange times," writes Mr. Priestley, "that this fair and meditative maiden, who looks as if she might be dreamily contemplating a cluster of bluebells in a spring wood, is actually preparing for its dreadful task a thing that may soon blow a great hole in a ship's side and send hundreds of men to their death. The irony is fascinating, but it is also horrible, and we shall do well to pause at this picture, to consider the girl and consider the task we have set her, and then ask ourselves how long we propose to allow this world to remain a madhouse."

Quite so. Proud as this book in one sense makes us, in another it is a measure of all humanity's degradation. A certain sentimentalism pushes the lesson home when the torpedo is being handled by a girl. Fundamentally and morally, we are as much in a madhouse when it is being handled by a man.

A certain sentimentalism, too, I think, is in Mr. Priestley's opinion that "woman is the natural conservator of life, and if she helps us to fight our

battles it is only because she knows that beyond victory there is the chance of more abundant life." I see nothing in the conduct and conversation of women, either between the wars or now, that makes me feel them to be more aware of these matters than men are. Mr. Priestley is on less debatable ground when he suggests that the thousands of women now doing part-time work will be eager to go on doing it after the war. "I believe," he says, "that Britain after the war may find in this part-time work for women the solution of one of its most difficult problems." Certainly if it can be done it will be an excellent thing to do.

Mr. Priestley has covered much ground in little space and lightens his instruction by attaching a great deal of it not to a class of women but to a particular woman. This warms the book up, gives it a humane and intimate feeling. The many photographs are beyond all praise. They show us women of every type doing work of every sort, and some of them are beautifully composed. Consider, for example, the one of a white-coiffed woman hemming the edge of a scarlet blanket.

RARE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Miss Margiad Evans's *Autobiography* (Blackwell, 8s. 6d.) is unlike the books that normally appear under that name. The author is not concerned to give us facts about her physical life, though a few appear here and there. For example: "Helplessly poor (two glances at a penny sometimes, at the mercy of a shilling) horribly poor I am: but this is my chosen work, and as I scribble away here I do feel in harmony with a true purpose."

She lives in a cottage in Wales, and her book is the story of her endeavour to achieve "harmony with a true purpose." Almost all that she writes is a record of minute observation of natural things and of her mental, one may say spiritual, reaction to them. Her sentences are often of a profoundly satisfying rightness. This is about falling snow: "There was so much movement and so little noise that I felt I had gone deaf." When the snow has ceased to fall and she walks over the white fields, she writes: "That which

startled and touched most suddenly the nerve of perception were the bird tracks. I never remember realising flight as I did when out in a field some distance from the hedge I looked down and saw the treble markings I had followed cease—just stop without flurry or fading as if some natural thought had lifted the bird out of the world. The lonely snow and there being nothing after those last prints."

BRITISH WOMEN GO TO WAR

By **J. B. Priestley**
(Collins, 12s. 6d.)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
By **Margiad Evans**
(Blackwell, 8s. 6d.)

OTHER THINGS
By **THAN WAR**
Sir John Hammerton
(Macdonald, 10s. 6d.)

WINTER QUARTERS
By **Pamela**
Hansford Johnson
(Collins, 8s. 6d.)

That seems to me to be something perfectly seen, perfectly felt, and perfectly expressed. The book is full of the same sort of observation of birds and animals, falling snow and running water, firelight in dark rooms, flowers and wind. Even a twig lying against a stone or a soot-cobweb quivering in the chimney takes on a heightened being when Miss Evans presents it to our gaze.

"WRITE FROM YOUR EYES"

She says: "If you want to write with absolute truth and with the ease of a natural function, write from your eyes and ears, and your touch, in the very now where you find yourself alive wherever it may be. Carry your paper and book with you and conceal yourself in the fields. Watch and be in what you see or in what you feel in your brain."

One feels that that is how this remarkable book came into being. It is the book of a lonely soul: the sort of book, I felt, that Emily Brontë would have written had she set herself down to a record of things seen and smelt and heard.

Sir John Hammerton is best known as an editor, but from time to time he gives us a volume dug, so to speak, out of himself rather than compiled out of a vast memory and a deep erudition. Such a volume comes now in *Other Things than War* (Macdonald, 10s. 6d.). This is a book of essays, a survey of the thoughts, memories, and impressions that the mind falls back on after many years that have touched life at many points and in many places.

But mainly it is a bookman's book. And in dealing with books, as in dealing with other matters, the author is able to call upon the oddest scraps of knowledge and information. "There are times," he says, "when I look back with surprise at the extent and variety of my reading. . . . And very pleasant is the feeling induced by having added so much to the store-room of the mind, even if it may later involve a certain amount of fumbling about there to get at the items which most caught my fancy."

THE PERFECT ANECDOTE

Well, if there is fumbling in the study, there is never any sign of it in the printed page. Sir John seems able always to lay his hand on the apt quotation, the perfect anecdote, the appropriate illustration of character. His memories begin with the old Whitefriars Club whose members, meeting in Fleet Street, included Winston Churchill, and where "good talk about life, literature, the arts," was to be heard.

But I must confess that to me the most interesting thing in the book is its wealth of out-of-the-way anecdote. I have often referred to Brewer's *Phrase and Fable* but I knew nothing whatever about Brewer till Sir John Hammerton opened my eyes. He calls Brewer "the worst paid of all best-sellers." In 1886 his *Literary Guide* had sold 380,000 copies, "and has probably doubled that figure since." Brewer received £50 for it. At one time 3,000,000 copies of his books were in circulation, but his annual income never exceeded £200. "I drink no wine, beer or spirits, never smoke, never take a day's outing," he sadly wrote. "These are too expensive for me."

All sorts of queer by-ways of this sort come under Sir John Hammerton's regard; dip where you like and to one you'll find something you didn't know before.

Miss Pamela Hansford Johnson's novel *Winter Quarters* (Collins, 8s. 6d.) is concerned with the effect upon a village community of having an artillery battery quartered among them. It is not a theme which lends itself to a shapely piece of work, and shapely is indeed the last word one would apply to the novel. There are so many men and women having so many affairs, some trivial and some serious, and these are so complicated by temperamental ructions among the personnel of the battery, that one finds no straight line or fruitful idea worked out anywhere.

In compensation, we do get a sense of the general disturbance of life which troop movements so often cause, and we are able to enjoy the author's considerable talent for roughing out the idea of all sorts of characters. One puts down the book feeling as though one had spent an evening in the canteen, hearing all these people talk and getting a vivid if passing impression of their thoughts and backgrounds.

A BRITISH ENCYCLOPEDIA

THE last fifty years have seen a great quickening in the pulse of life, as we all—sadly or gladly, according to temperament—acknowledge. Distance and time have become obstacles of very different dimensions from those peculiar to them half a century ago; exact knowledge and specialist knowledge are necessities for us, where our grandfathers would have thought them only matters of interest or curiosity. Because we must know, and know quickly, if we are to make our necessary decisions without delay, reference books have multiplied and become more and more invaluable in the conduct of affairs. The names of many of them are literally household words. Among these *Chambers's Encyclopædia* holds an honourable place. It is nearly a century old, having first appeared during the period 1859-68. It is amusing to remember that it was sold in 520 parts at 1½d. each, for that was the time when the great success of the system of publication in parts was beginning. In 10 volumes it cost 90s., and there were about 100 contributors, mainly Scotsmen, and very distinguished Scotsmen at that. In the list was included the name of Florence Nightingale.

One of the peculiarities of any work of reference is that it can never be published once for all; it must be brought up to date from time to time, or it ceases to cover its field. *Chambers's Encyclopædia* was revised in 1874-75, and an entirely new edition with nearly 1,000 contributors came out in 1888-92. Another edition appeared after the first world war upheaval in 1922-27.

PROJECTED NEW EDITION

The thousands of readjustments that the new era after this war will make necessary, the departures from practice and precedent, the discoveries and events that must be recorded, will add rapidly and enormously to the usefulness of *Chambers's Encyclopædia* in the national life. Obviously it must be revised and enlarged (though not to the degree of unwieldiness), it must be authoritative on every subject, and it must attract as contributors the most distinguished men and women living. The resources of no single firm could well supply all that will be needed for it in the near future, if it is to be worthy of the place it has always occupied, and the still higher importance marked out for it in English letters. It has therefore been arranged that for this particular purpose the Edinburgh firm of Messrs. Chambers shall join forces with the London firm of Messrs. George Newnes, and the *Encyclopædia* will be published in London. A new edition is projected for publication as soon as possible after the end of the war.

To MEMBERS of the SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND

In the past 128 years members have invested nearly £99,000,000 in premiums.

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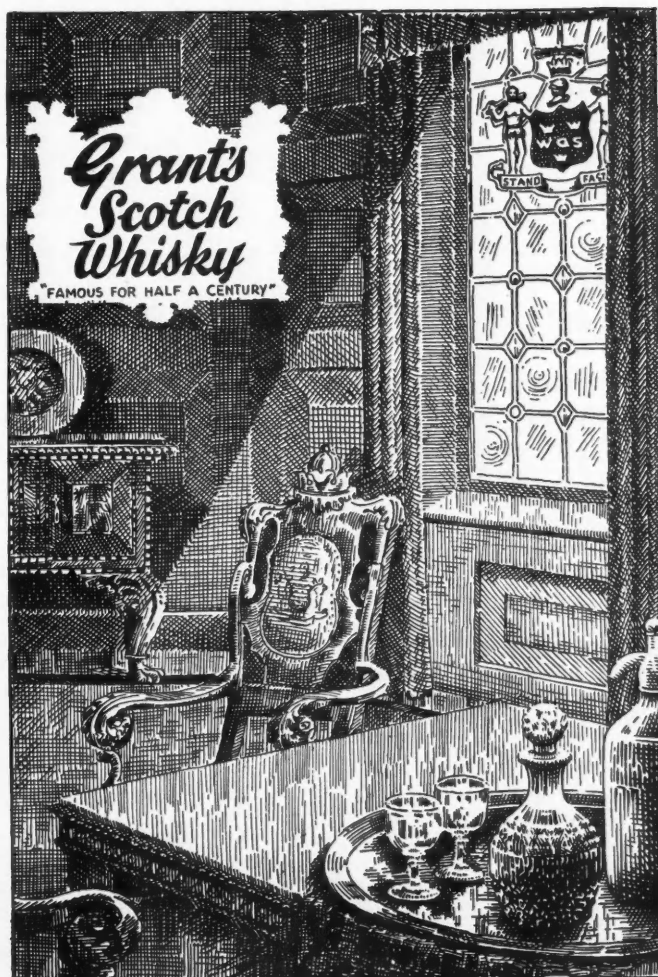
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"JERSEYS"

(Right) Dark brown boucle jersey suit over a woollen shirt of tawny brown Miss Lucy calls copper beech. The jacket fastens high and can be worn without a shirt. Brown felt with quills, also from Miss Lucy

(Below) Jersey beret that can be manipulated into a dozen shapes, cockaded with ribbon and named Alamein. From Miss Lucy



PHOTOGRAPHS DENES



(Right) A Morley shirt in wool and angora jersey, green and old-gold with an old-gold collar

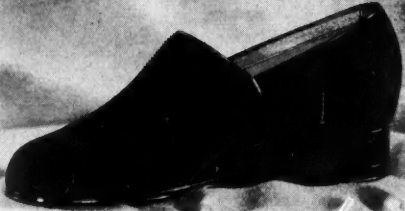


Hand-knitted gloves, fluffy black angora backs diagonally striped in periwinkle blue, cherry and jade, with woollen palms. Navy blue jersey fabric gloves stitched with white. The White House

JERSEY in wool, rayon, cotton, and in mixtures of one and two with a very little of number three, jersey just off the experimental looms where it is being prepared for post-war export trade, jersey so tough that it can stand up to a North Sea passage, so fine that it will go through a wedding ring—these are a few items picked from the welter of news about jersey fabrics, for jersey is a useful fabric capable of a great deal. Rayon jerseys are being produced with the bloom of velvet, heavy enough to hang in sculptured folds; rayons are ridged like a serge, or are as sheer as those which Alix used to make her Grecian dresses in Paris before the war. Woollen jerseys are mixed with angora, alpaca, mohair or rayon, and woven like a honeycomb, soft as a baby's shawl, or, all wool, are as taut as a suiting, in tweedy mixtures for suits, in fine weaves, hitherto produced only on the Continent, for frocks. None of these jerseys crushes; all look as well outdoors as indoors and can be worn with fancy or plain accessories and change their character according to their accessories.

Jersey in all its variations makes scores of attractive suits, frocks, shirt blouses, odd jackets and tailored dinner dresses, not to mention a multitude of gloves, berets, tam o' shanters, toques, nightgowns and house-coats. Jersey frocks and suits have all the trim details of a cloth tailor-made plus the softness that goes with a pliable weave and makes them so comfortable to wear. Black or chalk white jersey looks smart for a shirt, saddle-stitched at the seams and round the one big patch pocket on the left side. Chestnut brown makes





BAMBI
A Panda model in golden brown doeskin and maize gold calf, also conga brown and hazel.

For personal shoppers only

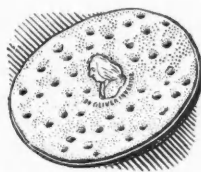
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BEDFORD, BROMLEY, CHICHESTER, CROYDON, EADING, EASTBOURNE, GUILDFORD, HERNE BAY, LEYTON, LIME, RYE, SEVENOAKS, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA, STREATHAM, TOLSON, TONBRIDGE, WELLS AND WINCHESTER.

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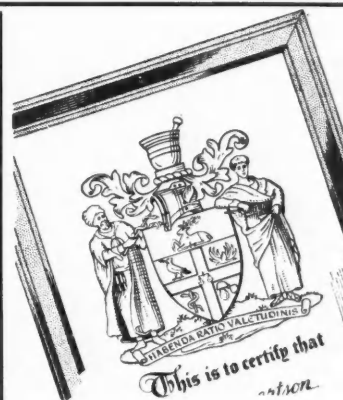
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JAEGGER Facts

1. Wool does not become damp like cotton or linen.
2. Wool is warmer in winter and cooler in summer because it is a slow conductor of heat.
3. Wool ventilates the skin, and so keeps it in good condition.
4. Wool is just as important in bed.
5. Wool therefore is best for health and comfort.



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TOOTH PASTE

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GENTLE HAND-PAINTED CHINA DOOR HANDLES AND FINGER PLATES in delightful floral decorations are suggested for presentation.

Actual colour illustrations will be sent on application.

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FRIENDLINESS!

**JOHN
JAMESON
★ ★ ★ WHISKEY**

Not a drop is sold till it's seven years old

the perfect "under-fur coat" suits and frocks, plain or in tweed mixtures or *bouclé*. The thick checked jerseys make splendid country cardigans and frocks.

Jersey jackets and dresses in flecked mixtures of brown or grey are made up with cardigan jackets over tailored frocks, and the collar of the frock or the white dickey front pulls out over the jacket. These jackets are longish, fitted at the waist with darts or fullness above to pouch over very slightly. Another version has a suit with stitched collar and revers, like a woollen suiting, buttoning high so that it can be worn without a blouse when coupons are short. A jersey *ensemble* for early spring has a long coat in pearl grey honeycomb jersey, hanging straight from the shoulders with a vent at the back and turn-down collar. Underneath is a short-sleeved frock with one large patch pocket, saddle-stitched all round, on the right hip and a similar, smaller one on the left side of the bodice. The coat is lined with rayon taffeta which makes it very crisp and gives a pleasant rustle that has been long absent from fashion with the end of the *bouffant* frocks.

JUMPER suits are made to fit without a wrinkle in a thick, close weave with a top that looks like a sweater but is actually made all in one piece with the tubular skirt. These frocks have seven-eighths or three-quarter sleeves and a collar and little vest that look like ribbed knitted bands, woven all in one. They are extremely smart in chestnut brown, navy and black, plain enough for the morning, so very plain that they can be laden with all kinds of jewellery and look right in smart restaurants for dining out. Finer jersey is for the popular dirndl-skirted frocks, or the one that is gathered in front like an apron and has two pockets.

Pockets that look like plackets and plackets that look like pockets are a distinct feature this winter and appear, as well, in all the early spring collections. They give a very pretty detail and are often shaped like the letter L or a crescent moon. They run from the waistline. The placket that conceals a pocket buttons at the side seam and the pocket folds underneath as two triangles, so that there is no gaping of any sort



A dashing felt with a high sweep to the brim and a feather through the crown. Otto Lucas

and it lies completely flat. There is a charming frock in soft olive green woollen jersey and black. The plain back and the long, plain sleeves are black; the apron front is entirely in the olive green with a cross-over top and a full, gathered skirt. A jumper suit in this colour combination has the front only in green; the rest of the dress is dead black. Sleeves fit without a wrinkle to the wrist; the jumper has a plain round neck right up to the base of the throat. A black jersey frock with a gathered skirt has bands of cyclamen and hepatica blue let in above and below the waistline and is nice for a young girl. It shows the round yoke that is another distinguishing mark of 1944. These yokes are deep and rounded, divided in two between a buttoned fastening in the centre front.

A new race of berets has appeared to accompany these mid-winter frocks—berets completely unlike the tam berets of the W.R.N.S. that carried all before them last winter. One, in black felt, rests on the brow like a leaf with the sides curved up each side. A headband cut into three jagged sections fits it on closely at the back with a button in the middle of each. Another jersey beret is so small it has to be pinned on the top of a "bang" with a hat-pin. This is definitely a beret for the neat head of hair that is done on top, and requires one of the baroque Victorian hat-pins to finish it off. It barely covers the crown of the head and is very smart with a fur jacket. A large beret made like a starched Dutch girl's cap fits right on to the forehead with a band that is slit in two. The beret itself is shaped like a circle of felt that has had a slice cut from it top and bottom and one flat edge appears above the forehead while the other flat edge rests on the neck. This is a very becoming hat for a girl with a round face. It practically hides the hair, and is, in fact, just like the Dutch bonnets one sees worn on the back of the head, on the old picture postcards. Evening berets are studded with gold or sequins, edged with stiffened black lace. Berets in mink tails are attached to a disc of black velvet and worn with velvet shoulder capes edged with more mink tails and tying in a rosette of mink tails.

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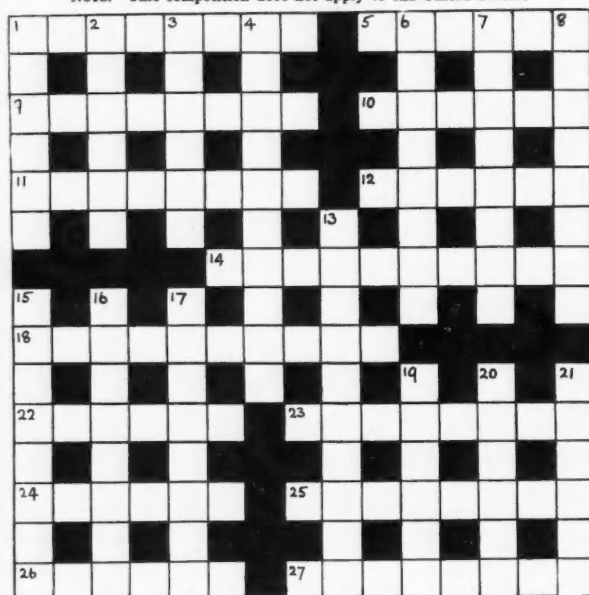
BARRI MODELS
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THE WHITE HOUSE LTD
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CROSSWORD No. 726

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 726, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, December 30, 1943.

NOTE.—This competition does not apply to the United States.



Name
(Mr., Mrs., etc.)
Address

SOLUTION TO No. 725. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of December 17, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1, Christmas Day; 9, Reconcile; 10, Texts; 11, Any way; 12, Spectrum; 13, Eyelid; 15, Compiled; 18, Triangle; 19, Grange; 21, Exegesis; 23, Elopes; 26, Docks; 27, Stutterer; 28, Close secrets.
DOWN.—1, Corkage; 2, Rocky; 3, Sensation; 4, Main; 5, Sheepdog; 6, Antic; 7, Resumed; 8, Exertion; 14, Exigency; 16, Paralytic; 17, Ellipsis; 18, Treadle; 20, Ensures; 22, Easel; 24, Puree; 25, Fuss.

ACROSS.

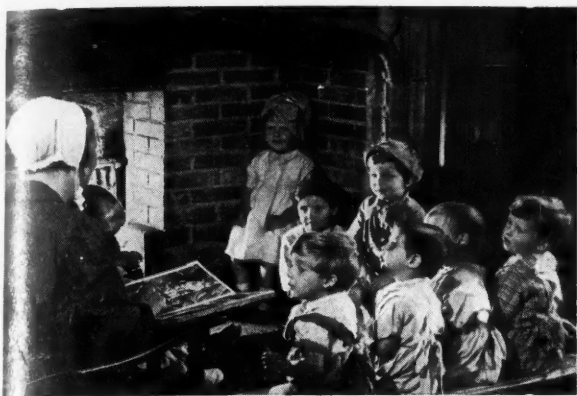
1. P. Joyce Reynolds is their stylish exponent (8)
5. Appearance of a spectre (6)
9. What you could do if your habit were to burst into tears (8)
10. Over-all or over all (6)
11. Mix up in a tangent angle (8)
12. The part of 10 up which one laughs (6)
14. Narrator—with accents from the dictionary? (10)
18. It disappears in the individual wash (6, 4)
22. A box has to be shut before it can be this (6)
23. Hackneyed (4, 4)
24. Lie close and snug (6)
25. Ben is mixed up in a gate (8)
26. Surrenders (6)
27. He would have fought on the beaches, landing grounds, hills, etc. (8)

DOWN.

1. A man who puts his hands to the plough (6)
2. Put a twisted net into the sea (6)
3. Originate (6)
4. An eruption that alters then alters (10)
6. Debtors need not necessarily do so before they settle down (6, 2)
7. A cardinal honour (8)
8. Scott wrote of this part of Midlothian (3, 5)
13. That cannot be named (10)
15. He can legally get the title of general without being in any army (8)
16. He is often called to the bar, no doubt (8)
17. A deer rising round a dead calf is shown (8)
19. To assert without proof (6)
20. Aged odd tar, but hardly in the Navy (6)
21. Dee ran (anagr.) (6)

The winner of Crossword No. 724 is

Mrs. R. N. P. Wilson,
27, Skinner Street,
Whitby, Yorkshire.



"... and they lived happily ever after"

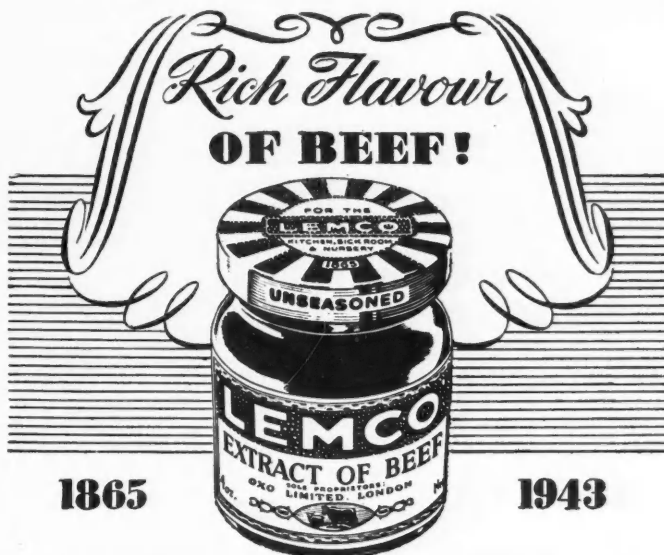
So ends the fairy story for Christmas Eve. Then to bed, to sleep and to dream as children should on such a night. Safe and sound, so far as we can keep them so, whatever may betide in the outside world. But can you visualize what sort of Christmas these happy kiddies and others of the 6,300 under our care might have had if they had been left in their surroundings where often neglect and cruelty gave

them little promise of living 'happily ever after'?

A happy Christmas is every child's birthright and we are appealing to you to help us to give our little ones that Christmas warmth and good cheer to which they are so eagerly looking forward.

10s. will help us to keep one child for a week, or feed him during the 12 days of Christmas.

Christmas Gifts gratefully received by the Secretary, W. R. VAUGHAN, O.B.E., Church of England Waifs & Strays Society, Evacuation Headquarters, JOEL ST., PINNER, MIDDLESEX.



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